DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Beijing opposes US tariffs on India: Chinese envoy

Says trade wars disrupting economic system

Wipro buys HARMAN's DTS arm for over Rs 3,200 cr

Page 12

LOVED IN 100 COUNTRIES
BAJAJ
THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE INDIAN
DUNIYA DEKHTI HAI.
TU DIKHA.
HAT-TRICK OFFER
SAVE
₹10000/-
CASHBACK OFFER + NO PROCESSING FEE + INSURANCE DISCOUNT

MODEL	125 CF	NS 125	150 SD	NS 200	NS 400
EX-SHOWROOM PRICE	₹94 074/-*	₹99 994/-*	₹1 13 984/-*	₹1 40 691/-*	₹1 92 793/-*
HAT TRICK SAVINGS	₹7 500/-*	₹6 000/-*	₹7 500/-*	₹10 000/-*	₹9 200/-*

*Offer also on other Pulsar models.
Low down payment starting at ₹4 999/-**
Additional offers available on Flipkart and amazon.in
pulsar
DEFINITELY DARING
Ogilvy 4857
72198 21111
BAJAJ SECURE • AMC • ROAD SIDE ASSISTANCE | SHRIRAM Finance | IDFC FIRST Bank ALWAYS YOU FIRST | BAJAJ AUTO CREDIT | L&T Finance | TATA CAPITAL Two Wheeler Loans
*Terms and conditions apply. *Ex-showroom price for mentioned Pulsar base variant. **Down-payment is margin money for Pulsar 125 Neon. Margin Money is excluding DCC charges, Processing fees, Other charges. Finance at the sole discretion of financier. Terms & conditions apply. Bajaj Auto reserves the right to withdraw any or all offers without prior notice. Stunts have been performed by experts, under professional supervision, in a controlled and enclosed environment, in isolation from general public or public roads. Do not attempt to replicate these stunts and always follow traffic and safety rules. AMC available on specific models and in specific states. Check with Bajaj dealer for more details. Road Side Assistance is provided by third parties and is subject to their terms and conditions.

Authorised Dealers For Bajaj Auto Ltd.: Bangalore • Bommanahalli AMBA BAJAJ: 9535411100 • HSR Layout AMBA BAJAJ: 8884333732 • Sarjapur AMBA BAJAJ: 7406688884• BTM Layout AMBA BAJAJ: 9513926221• Madiwala AMBA BAJAJ: 9945000048• Electronic City AMBA BAJAJ: 8971711118• Nayandahalli RV BAJAJ: 6360308373 • Moodalapalya RV BAJAJ: 9740444545 • Kengeri RV BAJAJ: 7353763305 • Giri Nagar RV BAJAJ: 7353763302• Vijaynagar RV BAJAJ: 7353763307• Banashankari POPULAR BAJAJ: 9945111874 • Rajajinagar POPULAR BAJAJ : 6366554001 • Koramangala POPULAR BAJAJ: 9845589079 • Konankunte POPULAR BAJAJ: 7760967834 • Ramnagara POPULAR BAJAJ: 7760967832 • Kanakpura POPULAR BAJAJ: 9972533890 • POPULAR BAJAJ Channapatna 9901947666 • POPULAR BAJAJ Uttarahalli 9972095890 • POPULAR BAJAJ Gottigere 7760996891 • Yelahanka KALYANI BAJAJ: 9449849618 • Mekhri circle KALYANI BAJAJ 8884413593 Mathikere KALYANI BAJAJ: 8884430126 • Chikkaballapura KALYANI BAJAJ: 8884413594 • Devanahalli KALYANI BAJAJ: 9449849624 • Marathahalli KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9036091986 • Kasturba Rd KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060140 • Indiranagar KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060139 • Hennur KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9742155225 • Banaswadi KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060147 • Yeshwanthpur : KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: - 9148752305 • Hesargatta KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060148 • Whitefield KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 8618840097 • Hoskote KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035005075 • Magadi Rd ANANT BAJAJ: 9980009166 • Laggere ANANT BAJAJ: 9900072690 • Hubli CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 9008030908 • Arvind Nagar branch 8884771881 Gadag CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 7090665850 • Sirsi CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 8884645609 • Haveri CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 8151884422 • Belgaum JAGASHREE BAJAJ: 988690116, MISHA BAJAJ: 9632684225 • Chikodi: MISHA BAJAJ : 9632765225 • Gokak MISHA BAJAJ: 9632684225 • Bellary AADI BAJAJ: 9606050246• Raichur SHREE BALAJI AUTOMOBILES: 9880235539• Koppal I A BAJAJ: 9632512938• Hospet AADI BAJAJ:9731361414 • Hagaribommanahalli AADI BAJAJ: 9900363010• SIRUGUPPA AADI BAJAJ: 9110217558 • Bijapur BIJJARGI BAJAJ (BLDE Road): 6362877793 •(Bus Stand Road) 8884000970 • Bagalkot BIJJARGI BIKES: 9148448324 • Sindagi BIJJARGI BAJAJ 8861946802• Bidar SINDOL BAJAJ 9513226555 • Chitradurga BTV BAJAJ: Ph: 8310553554 • Hiriyur BTV BAJAJ: Ph: 8310553554 • Challakere BTV BAJAJ 8310553554 • Davangere JAIN BAJAJ: Ph: 9343636805 • Harihara JAIN BAJAJ: Ph: 9632300444 • Gulbarga VKG BAJAJ: 9632018700 • Yadgir VKG BAJAJ: 8867776567 • Humnabad VKG BAJAJ 8050889160 • Shimoga SUPREME BAJAJ: 8105000999 • Sagar SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008339799 • Bhadravathi SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008352799 • Chikkamagalur SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008379799 • Tarikere SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008569799 • Hosanagar SUPREME BAJAJ 9731767799 • Anandpura SUPREME BAJAJ 9663501499 • Hassan ARPITA BAJAJ: 9902439255, Arsikere ARPITA BAJAJ: 9964094535 • Kolar KHIVRAJ 9611768292 • KGF KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 7349507477• Tumkur AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040212• Tiptur AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040226 • Sira AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040328 • Kunigal AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7338662706 • Madhugiri AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040340 • BH Road: 7338662687 • Mysore Saraswathipuram POPULAR BAJAJ: 9148101113 • Chamarajapuram POPULAR BAJAJ: 7259786271 • Vontikoppal STAR BAJAJ: 9886959722 • Mandya POPULAR BAJAJ: 7760967900 • Chamarajanagara PATEL BAJAJ: 9480494888 • Hunsur STAR BAJAJ: 8884374777 • Kushalnagar POPULAR BAJAJ: 7259786276 • Nanjangud STAR BAJAJ: 9742100252 • NR Mohalla STAR BAJAJ: 8095777706 • Balmatta SUPREME BAJAJ: 9606973192 • Kuloor SUPREME BAJAJ: 9606237547 • Surathkal SUPREME BAJAJ: 9606973193 • Thokottu 9606702429 • B C Road 7618715273 • Bidar SINDOL BAJAJ 9513226555 • UDUPI SAANVI BAJAJ 8861135225.

MOSCOW VISIT: External Affairs Minister says India-Russia ties among steadiest in world

Jaishankar meets Putin, calls out US over tariffs

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Donald Trump administration's arguments for imposing additional duties on Indian exports to the United States over India's continued oil imports from Russia have perplexed New Delhi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in Moscow, where he called on President Vladimir Putin on Thursday.

"We believe that relations between India and Russia have been among the steadiest of the major relationships in the world after the Second World War," Jaishankar said, as he and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov spoke to journalists after a meeting. "Geopolitical convergence, leadership contacts and popular sentiment remain its key drivers," he said.

Jaishankar said that the US had, over the past few years, urged India to do whatever it could to help stabilise the international energy market, including by purchasing oil from Russia.

"We are a country where, actually, the Americans have said for the last few years that we should do everything to stabilise the oil energy market, including buying oil from Russia," he noted.

Jaishankar pointed out that India is not the largest buyer of Russian oil or liquefied natural gas, trailing behind China and Europe. "We also buy oil from America, and that amount is increasing," he said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Russian President Vladimir Putin during a meeting in Moscow on Thursday. REUTERS

"So, quite honestly, we are very perplexed by the logic of the (US) arguments."

With no breakthrough in negotiations on the proposed trade deal between New Delhi and Washington, Trump on July 30 announced a 25% tariff on all goods exported from India. He also criticised India for continuing to purchase defence equipment and energy from Russia, despite Moscow's ongoing military operations in Ukraine. On July 31, he called the economies of India and Russia "dead".

On August 1, Trump claimed that India was preparing to take a "good step" by halting its crude oil imports from Russia, though New Delhi neither confirmed nor denied any such move. On August 6, he imposed an additional 25% tariff on all Indian imports to the US, bringing total duty to 50%.

Peter Navarro, Trump's senior advisor on trade and manufacturing, recently said that India had now become a major refining hub for oil from Russia, even as it claimed neutrality on the issue of the Russia-Ukraine conflict to avoid sanctions. He said that India exported over one million barrels of refined products every day, and this was more than half the amount of crude it imported from Russia.

Jaishankar's meetings with Lavrov and Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov in Moscow have laid the groundwork for Putin's visit to New Delhi for the annual summit with Modi later this year. Lavrov is also expected to visit New Delhi soon.

India's bilateral trade in goods with Russia surged more than fivefold, from $13 billion in 2021 to $68 billion in 2024-25.

India is 'Maharaj' in tariffs: White House trade adviser

NEW DELHI, PTI: India is a 'Maharaj' in tariffs and it is running a 'profiteering scheme' by using discounted Russian crude oil, White House Trade Adviser Peter Navarro has said, in yet another sharp criticism of New Delhi.

Navarro's comments came on a day External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar responded to criticism by American officials for its energy ties with Russia.

The White House Trade Adviser also talked about how India is 'cosying up to' Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"Prior to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, India virtually bought no Russian oil...It was like almost one per cent of their need. The percentage has now gone up to 35," Navarro said.

They get Russian oil and make refined products which they sell at premium prices in Europe, Africa and Asia, he said, adding "it is purely profiteering by Indian refining industry."

"What is the net impact on Americans because of our trade with India? They are Maharaj in tariff. (We have) higher non-tariff barriers, massive trade deficit etc — and that hurts American workers and American business," he said.

Silence only emboldens the bully: Chinese envoy on US tariff

NEW DELHI, PTI: China on Thursday firmly opposed the Trump administration's whopping 50% tariff on India, with Chinese envoy Xu Feihong saying silence or compromise only "emboldens the bully" in the face of such action.

The Chinese ambassador said the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to China for the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation will be very important, and China is attaching great importance to the trip.

Xu said India and China are "double engines" of economic growth in Asia, and both should jointly ensure international justice in the face of disruption in the global trading system.

"The US has imposed tariffs of up to 50% on India and even threatened for more. China firmly opposes it," Xu said.

"In the face of such acts, silence or compromise only emboldens the bully. China will firmly stand with India to uphold the multilateral trading system with the WTO (World Trade Organisation) at its core," he said.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington are on a downturn after US President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods.

The envoy said China would welcome more Indian commodities to enter the Chinese market, adding India has a competitive edge in IT, software and biomedicine, while China is seeing rapid expansion in the fields of manufacturing, infrastructure and new energy.

Xu was speaking at the conference titled, 'SCO Summit: Resetting India-China relations'.

On the India-China border issue, Xu said it is a very important part of the relationship and that it should be looked at from a long-term perspective. "The border issue is on one side and the cooperation of our two countries is on the other side. So these two important issues should be advanced in parallel."

"We will work on 'early harvest' on the border issues," he said, adding a 10-point consensus was reached during Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi's visit to India this week.

Asked about India's challenge of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan, the envoy said Pakistan is also a "victim of terrorism" and that joint efforts are needed to combat the menace.

He said the US has long benefited from free trade but now it is using tariffs as a "bargaining chip" to demand "exorbitant prices" from various countries.

No position on matters of faith: Govt on Dalai Lama succession

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said it has seen a statement issued by the 14th Dalai Lama in July about the institution of the Dalai Lama, and underlined that it "does not take any position" on matters concerning beliefs and practices of faith and religion.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said this in a written response to queries in the Rajya Sabha. The MEA was asked whether it is a fact that the government has "openly backed the Dalai Lama's right to decide on his own succession".

"Government has seen a statement regarding the institution of the Dalai Lama issued by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on 02 July 2025. Government of India does not take any position on matters concerning beliefs and practices of faith and religion," the MoS said.

"Government has always upheld freedom of religion for all in India and will continue to do so. Government's position has also been conveyed to the Chinese side," he said.

In July, Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) head Penpa Tsering countered the Chinese government's claim to the next Dalai Lama and said they should first look for the reincarnations of its own leadership.

Celebi withdraws HC plea against airport security revocation

MUMBAI, PTI: The subsidiary of Turkiye-based airport ground handling services major Celebi on Thursday withdrew its plea in the Bombay High Court against the revocation of its security clearance by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor.

A bench of Justices B P Colabawalla and Firdosh Pooniwalla disposed of the plea. The Bombay HC had been deferring hearing of the plea, awaiting a verdict on an identical plea before the Delhi HC.

On July 7, the Delhi HC dismissed a writ petition by another Celebi subsidiary seeking suspension and annulment of the security clearance cancellation.

Celebi's counsel Chetan Kapadia on Thursday told the Bombay HC bench that the firm seeks to withdraw its plea, which the court accepted.

Amid the backlash in India over Turkiye's support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, India's aviation security regulator BCAS revoked the security clearance of Celebi Airport Services India on grounds related to national security.

China slams 'attempts' in India to undermine its Taiwan claim

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Some individuals in India were attempting to undermine China's sovereignty over Taiwan, Beijing alleged on Thursday, three days after it claimed New Delhi had broken its silence on the issue.

They were thus looking to "sabotage the improvement of China-India relations," China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Mao Ning told journalists, adding: "China expresses serious concern and resolute opposition to this."

Beijing on Monday quoted Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar saying that Taiwan had been a part of China.

New Delhi later confirmed that the issue of India-Taiwan relations had come up for discussion when Jaishankar met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New Delhi.

Jaishankar had noted that India's position on the issue had not changed. He said he conveyed to Wang that India, like the rest of the world, maintained a relationship with Taiwan focused on economic, technological, and cultural ties, and that it would continue. New Delhi underlined that even China cooperated with Taiwan on these domains.

"China is surprised by India's so-called clarification. This is inconsistent with the facts," Mao told journalists in Beijing on Thursday.

New Delhi used to routinely reaffirmed its "One China" policy in its joint statements with Beijing, but stopped after 2008 in response to China's policy of issuing "stapled visas" to residents of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Arunachal Pradesh — which it used to assert its claims over Indian territories — instead of normal visas issued by the India.

The Narendra Modi's government, however, indirectly reaffirmed its adherence to the "One China" in July 2018, getting Air India to replace "Taiwan" with "Chinese Taipei" in the list of destinations on its website.

Taiwan reacted strongly, stating that the move could be seen as India succumbing to China's pressure.

Macron, Modi discuss Ukraine war; France backs India's BRICS presidency

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron discussed the Russia-Ukraine conflict during a phone call on Thursday.

Macron conveyed France's support for India's presidency of the BRICS in 2026, although the bloc was at the receiving end of US President Donald Trump in the past few months.

Modi and Macron exchanged views on the conflict in the wake of Trump's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska on August 15. Trump also had a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders, including Macron.

"We coordinated our positions on the war in Ukraine in order to move towards a just and lasting peace, with strong guarantees for Ukraine and Europe's security," Macron posted on X after his phone call with Modi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron. PTI FILE

"Had a very good conversation with my friend President Macron. Exchanged views on efforts for peaceful resolution of conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia. Reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the India-France strategic partnership," Modi wrote on the social media platform.

Trade issues discussed

The two leaders also discussed trade issues. "We agreed to strengthen our economic exchanges and our strategic partnership in all areas — this is the key to our sovereignty and independence," Macron said.

Trump imposed an additional 25% tariff, on top of a 25% duty levied just days earlier, on all exports from India to the US. The move was in response to India's continued purchase of oil from Russia, defying sanctions imposed by the US and other Western nations aimed at pressuring Moscow to end its war in Ukraine, which began in February 2022.

'US tariffs unfortunate'

New Delhi stated that it was "extremely unfortunate" that the US had decided to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries were also taking in their "own national interests".

"Following up on the AI Action Summit held in Paris last February, we are working towards the success of the AI Impact Summit to be held in New Delhi in 2026," Macron said after speaking with Modi. He and the prime minister agreed to work closely together in preparation for the French presidency of the G7 and the Indian presidency of the BRICS in 2026.

Former village head kills lover, dismembers body in UP

LUCKNOW, DHNS: In a shocking incident, an ex-village head allegedly strangled his lover to death and dismembered her body into several pieces before dumping some of them in a well and others in a river in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi district.

The accused, identified as Sanjay Patel, and his nephew Sandeep were arrested in this connection. While the police were on the lookout for Sanjay's friend, the third accused, Deepak.

Police said that they had found the beheaded body of a woman near Kishorpura village in the district a few days back. They later recovered human remains from a well and the Lakheri River.

During investigations, the cops found that Sanjay, who was already married and had children, had been having an affair with the victim for the past few years and killed her after she insisted on marrying him. The victim was also married and had two children, but she had separated from her husband and had been living with her parents for the past few years.

The three accused allegedly first strangled the victim to death and then chopped her body into seven pieces before dumping them in the well and the river in a bid to hide her identity.

Police said that a search was launched to nab Deepak, and a cash reward of Rs 25,000 was declared for him.

Night curfew imposed along India-B'desh border

SHILLONG, PTI: Authorities in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills on Thursday imposed night curfew within a one-km radius of the India-Bangladesh border in the district in the wake of a recent intrusion by armed men from across the boundary.

In a notification, District Magistrate R M Kurbah said that movement of people from 8 pm to 6 am within the notified zone is prohibited.

The curfew will remain in force for two months, it said.

Meghalaya and Bangladesh share a 444-km-long border. The East Khasi Hills district has around seven-eight km of unfenced area along the border.

The order also restricts crossing of the international boundary, unlawful assembly of five or more persons, carrying of arms or any item that can be used as a weapon.

On August 8, at least eight armed intruders crossed over near the Rongdangai village, where they allegedly stabbed and injured a person, and tried to kidnap a villager, the officials said.

Assam to stop issuing Aadhaar cards to adults

Bid to prevent 'illegal migrants' from B'desh obtaining Indian citizenship

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Amid the eviction drive targeting Bengali-speaking Muslims, the BJP-led government in Assam on Thursday decided to restrict Aadhaar enrolment for adults from October 1 with a target to prevent "illegal migrants" from neighbouring Bangladesh from misusing the cards.

"We have been preventing illegal migration from Bangladesh almost on a daily basis. Even yesterday we pushed back seven Bangladeshis who tried to illegally cross the border," Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

"But we think many managed to cross the border. They may try for Aadhaar cards and use them to get Indian citizenship. We want to foil this plan," he added.

Sarma said Aadhaar enrolment, however, will remain open for the members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and those working in tea gardens.

IDENTITY CRISIS

- People above 18 years of age will not get first-time Aadhaar cards in Assam as a precautionary measure to check illegal immigrants from getting Indian citizenship.
- Only a one-month window from September 1 will be given to them to apply for an Aadhaar card if anyone has not got the document yet.
- Tea Tribes, SC and ST people above 18 years of age exempted.

Restrictions from Oct 1

"According to our records, the overall number of Aadhaar enrolments of adults so far has crossed the state's population. However, those who are yet to get Aadhaar can apply till September 30. The process will be restricted from October 1. After that, any adult wanting to apply will have to get clearance from the deputy commissioners," Sarma said.

Aadhaar enrolment for children, however, would continue, he said.

The decision was taken amid the drive in which thousands of Bengali-speaking Muslims have been evicted from forests, village-grazing land, and other government land.

The BJP alleged them of being "illegal infiltrators" and a "threat" to Assam's indigenous communities' identity.

'Sitting on fire'

The chief minister claimed fundamentalist forces in Bangladesh have been trying to motivate Bangladeshi-origin Muslims who migrated to India before 1971, obtained Indian citizenship, and settled near the "Chicken's Neck" corridor near Siliguri in West Bengal to keep their attachment towards the neighbouring nation alive.

The "Chicken's Neck" is a 22-km-wide corridor that connects the Northeast with the rest of India.

"They may be Indian, but during tension or wartime, they may side with Bangladesh. This is a very critical threat, and I can firmly say we are sitting on fire. This must be taken very seriously," said Sarma.

The Opposition Congress, however, said Sarma was repeatedly targeting Bengali-speaking Muslims to polarise voters in the run-up to next year's Assam Assembly elections.

Scribe booked for 'ridiculing' Centre, Assam government

GUWAHATI, PTI: Guwahati police on Thursday registered an FIR against journalist and YouTuber Abhisar Sharma over his video allegedly ridiculing the Assam and Union governments and promoting religious enmity, a senior official said.

The FIR invokes Sections 152 (sedition), 196 and 197 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS).

This comes close on the heels of two senior journalists — Siddharth Vardarajan and Karan Thapar — being summoned by Guwahati police in connection with cases registered under similar sections and asked to appear on August 22.

According to the complaint, Sharma uploaded a video on YouTube accusing Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of pursuing communal politics. "Sharma also mocked the principle of Ram Rajya and claimed that the government survives only on Hindu-Muslim polarisation," complainant Alok Baruah, a 23-year-old resident of Nayanpur, Ganeshguri, said.

Baruah stated that the remarks were made with mala fide intent to discredit the duly elected governments at the Centre and in Assam.

Supreme Court to rule on mass capture of stray dogs today

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The court reserved its order on August 14. PTI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce its order on Friday on a plea seeking a stay on the directions a two-judge bench issued in a suo motu case on August 11 to shift all stray dogs in the Delhi-NCR region to shelter homes at the earliest.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N V Anjaria would render its order at 10.30 am on August 22.

The court reserved its order on August 14 and asked all the intervenors who questioned the previous order's validity to file an affidavit, saying there was human suffering on one side and animal lovers on the other.

The court also felt this problem happened because of the municipal corporation's inaction.

Chief Justice of India B R Gavai constituted a fresh bench of three judges after the previous order triggered strong reactions, including street protests.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Delhi government, said 37 lakh dog bites happened every year — an average of about 10,000 dog bites every day. About 20,000 rabies deaths occur every year, according to WHO statistics.

Strongly supporting the previous order, he said: "Even if dogs are immunised, that won't stop them from mutilating children. Only four or five species of snakes are venomous. But, we don't keep them at home. Nobody is saying kill dogs. They need to be separated. Kids are not able to play outside or go to school."

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal, A M Singhvi, Sidharth Luthra, Siddharth Dave, Aman Lekhi, Colin Gonsalves, and others, appearing for NGOs and others, sought a stay of the August 11 order, saying there were not enough shelter homes to house dogs.

On August 11, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan directed the Delhi government and municipal bodies across the national capital region to start, at the earliest, removing stray dogs from all localities, finding the situation extremely grim.

The court had said any individual or organisation coming in the way of the removal of such stray dogs would face strict action, including contempt proceedings.

Kerala MLA dies after collapsing at meeting

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Senior CPI leader and Peerumade MLA Vazhoor Soman passed away in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. He was 72.

Vazhoor Soman collapsed while coming out of an official meeting of the state revenue department. He was rushed to a hospital, where he passed away.

Doctors cited the death to be due to a heart attack.

State revenue minister K Rajan and MLAs from Idukki district, who were present at the meeting, expressed shock over the incident. Rajan said the MLA actively participated in the meeting and did not show did not show any discomfort.

Soman was active in working among the plantation workers and used to take up the land issues of Idukki.

Soman leaves behind his wife and two sons.

Bengaluru Friday, August 22, 2025 Pages 20 Vol 78 No 233 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

JeM launches massive fundraising drive

Page 10

State P.4

No respite for Krishna basin districts from floods

Metro

50% discount on traffic fines in Bengaluru P.2

Sports

No bilateral sporting ties with Pak: Govt **P.13**

Nation

4 killed in Maharashtra gas leak **P.7**

GoM recommends scrapping of 12%, 28% GST slabs

Some states flag revenue worries; new 40% slab likely

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on goods and services tax (GST) rate rationalisation agreed on Thursday to the Union government's proposal to scrap 12% and 28% GST slabs and consolidate them with lower rates of 5% and 18%, a move that would simplify the indirect tax structure and make a host of services and items used by the common people cheaper.

The decision was taken at the meeting of the six-member GoM headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary in New Delhi.

"The proposal to end the 12% and 28% GST slabs was discussed and supported. We have made our recommendations in favour of scrapping these two slabs," Choudhary, who is the convenor of the panel, told reporters.

As part of the proposal, around 99% of the items currently taxed at 12% will be moved to the lower tax slab of 5%, while 90% of goods and services under the 28% rate will be shifted to the 18% slab.

However, the panel is also likely to recommend a new tax slab of 40%. This will be applicable on luxury items and sin goods or the items which are harmful to society or individual health like tobacco products and aerated drinks. Luxury cars are also proposed to be taxed at 40%.

GoM member and West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya proposed additional levy on the top of 40% GST on sin goods and luxury items, to maintain the current tax incidence. At present, a cess ranging from 5-96% is levied on sin goods in addition to 28% GST.

Other members of the GoM are Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal, UP Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna and Rajasthan Health Minister Gajendra Singh.

▸ GST, Page 6

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 99% items in 12% slab to move to 5% slab
- 90% goods in 28% slab will move to 18% slab
- New 40% slab likely for tobacco products, aerated drinks and luxury cars

IMPACT

- Proposed changes unlikely to have major impact on govt finances
- 70% of GST collection comes from 18% slab

WHAT'S NEXT

- GoM likely to submit recommendation to GST Council
- GST Council to meet in Sept

GoM composition

- Bihar Dy CM **Samrat Choudhary** (Convenor)
- West Bengal Finance Minister **Chandrima Bhattacharya**
- Karnataka Revenue Minister **Krishna Byre Gowda**
- Kerala Finance Minister **K N Balagopal**
- UP Finance Minister **Suresh Kumar Khanna**
- Rajasthan Health Minister **Gajendra Singh**

"We should also know what is the revenue loss that we are going to suffer. Because, ultimately, if a state suffers any loss, then it boils down to the sufferance of the common people" - **Chandrima Bhattacharya**, GoM member

Housing prices may see marginal fall

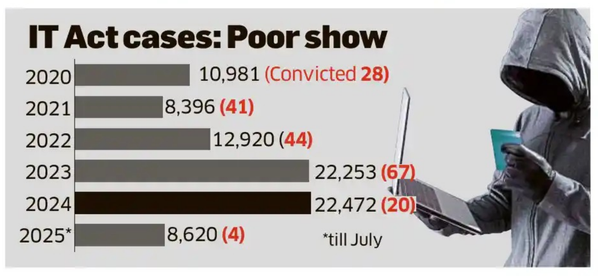
The proposed GST reforms are likely to bring modest reduction in housing prices. For affordable housing, which is currently taxed at 1%, the reduction would be limited though lower input costs - especially if input tax credits (ITC) are restored – can lower prices of affordable and mid-segment houses by up to 2-4%, according to experts and industry executives.
Details on Page 12

Cybercrime conviction rate dismal 0.23%

In 5 years, only 204 of 85,000 cases convicted in state

DH SPECIAL

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS



Procedural gaps, errors in documenting and preserving evidence, securing witnesses and a lack of accountability from intermediaries were some of the key factors affecting convictions in cybercrime cases in Karnataka, which remain abysmally low.

Between 2020 and July 2025, as many as 85,642 cases under the IT Act were registered in Karnataka, and only 204 accused were convicted — a mere 0.23%.

Last year saw the most cases at 22,472 and the fewest convictions at 20, according to the data seen by *DH*.

Senior officials opined that many cases are part of the backlog, while others falter due to procedural errors.

This may be due to a lack of proper training or a failure to apply critical thinking when chargesheeting, the officials said.

Investigators struggle while securing witnesses, who, like the accused, more often than not reside in different parts of the country.

While notices have to be served in person and warrants issued, their compliance remains uncertain.

Equally challenging is the safeguarding of electronic evidence.

"The very nature of electronic evidence is such that it gets lost over time, naturally," C Vamsi Krishna, joint commissioner of police (West Bengaluru), told *DH*.

▸ Cybercrime, Page 6

5 from K'buragi family found dead in Hyd

Five members of a family, including a two-year-old girl, from Ranjol village of Sedam taluk, Kalaburagi district, were found dead at their residence in Hyderabad on Thursday. The local police suspected it as a case of suicide. Sedam police said the family did not have debt burden or any other problem known to the relatives.
Details on Page 4

K'taka crowd control Bill goes to House panel

The Congress government's crowd control Bill, in the wake of the Chinnaswamy stadium stampede, was referred to a House committee on Thursday after Opposition lawmakers expressed worries that the proposed law might curtail protests and impact traditional cultural events.
Details on Page 5

Dharmasthala case: Tension in Brahmavar over arrest of activist

MANJUSHREE G NAIK
UDUPI, DHNS

A crowd outside Brahmavar court after the arrest of Thimarodi. DH PHOTO

Tension prevailed in Brahmavar town of Udupi district on Thursday after the police arrested Mahesh Shetty Thimarodi, president of the Rashtriya Hindu Jagaran Vedike, who has been vocal in demanding a high-level probe into the alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala.

As the activist's supporters staged a protest and roadblock against his arrest, the district administration imposed prohibitory orders around Brahmavar police station.

Police sources said the arrest was made based on a complaint filed by Udupi BJP rural mandali president Rajeev Kulal over Thimarodi's alleged Facebook post against the saffron party's national general secretary B L Santosh on August 16. Thimarodi is also accused of using derogatory language against a Hindu religious leader and attempting to incite communal hatred.

The Judicial Magistrate First Class court in Brahmavar has remanded him to 14-day judicial custody.

▸ Dharmasthala, Page 6

DH CHANGEMAKERS TO WATCH IN 2026

Nominations Open

Each year, DH recognises extraordinary people who persevere and overcome difficult odds to usher in change.

Since the DH Changemaker awards were launched in 2019, we have identified 150-plus trailblazers from across Karnataka in areas such as community empowerment, health, conservation, entrepreneurship, and the arts.

This year, it is time to begin our search for 15 Changemakers -- we seek to highlight their efforts, celebrate their achievements, and share their stories. On New Year's Day in 2026, we will publish print, web and video stories about these achievers.

We invite nominations from readers starting today. Send in details of individuals (below 45) and teams that you think deserve the Changemakers title and honour.

The last date for submitting nominations is September 18, 2025. Scan the QR code to make a nomination.

Day after HC questions blanket ban, bike taxis back on roads

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bike taxis were back on the streets of Bengaluru and other cities on Thursday, a day after the High Court of Karnataka questioned the blanket ban on the service.

The sudden move caught the Transport Department off guard, as it scrambled to review the proceedings from Wednesday's hearing.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy called the resumption "a violation" of the court order, while officials said ride-hailing firms had "misinterpreted" the court's oral observations.

At the hearing, the state had told the court that a "conscious" decision on framing a bike taxi policy would be taken at the highest level in the government.

The court had orally asked the government to give the policy "a serious thought" "because lives are at stake". The next hearing is on September 22.

Ride-hailing firms have appealed against a single-judge order, which has disallowed bike taxi services in Karnataka since June 16.

▸ Bike taxis, Page 6

SC: Are courts powerless if Guvs withhold Bills?

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked whether the court is powerless to intervene if the Governor indefinitely withholds assent to a Bill passed by the state legislature.

Hearing the Presidential reference over setting timelines for Governors and the President to clear Bills, a five-judge Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai also observed that if Governors withhold Bills indefinitely, then it will make the legislature defunct.

"If a function is entrusted to the Governor and if for years together he withholds it, will that also be beyond that scope of judicial review of this court?" the bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

"It has been found to be hitting at the basic structure of the Constitution. With those judgments, can we say that howsoever high the constitutional authority may be and if it does not act, would the court still be powerless?" the bench asked.

Mehta said that in such situations, the solutions lay elsewhere, "it is in the political sphere".

"Such cases are solved by democratic political process. It is wrong to believe that there will be circumstances where every organ would fail and therefore the only available organ is this court," he said.

▸ Governor, Page 6

DPU
DR. D.Y. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE
HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE
(A Unit of Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune)
PIMPRI, PUNE

DR. D.Y. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE
11 nirf
INDIA RANKINGS 2024
MEDICAL
National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

A++ NAAC
NABH
NABL

World-Class Infrastructure
Innovative Medical Education
Research Excellence

EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LIFESAVERS
Where Excellence Meets Compassion.
UG (250) and PG Admissions Announced

Dr. D. Y. Patil Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre, Sant Tukaram Nagar, Pimpri, Pune 411018 Maharashtra, India.
+91 20 27805100
+91 20 27805900
Find Us On:
info.medical@dpu.edu.in
www.medical.dpu.edu.in

WORLD VIEW

Shukla: First saw India from space at night, all lit up

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

I saw India from space after three days. It was a night pass. We were coming from the ocean side, which was dark and then the entire peninsula lit up. That sight left a mark on me." This is how Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla on Thursday described his first look at his homeland from his pad 400 km above the Earth.

The astronaut said his body took 3-4 days to get adjusted to microgravity, but on his return to earth, it took him almost seven days to get re-adjusted to gravity.

In his first media interaction after returning to India, he shared nuggets of his life during the 18-day stay at the International Space Station – the first Indian to do so – and said he and his fellow astronauts were screaming like school kids during the ascent.

What does India look like from space? "For the first three days, I did not see outside the window at all...then a Nasa crew member told me about a pass over India...It was a night pass and it was dark. I became so emotional when I saw it for the first time. We came from the south, it was all ocean and dark and then suddenly I saw the peninsula, the triangular shape of our country and it was all lit up in all its glory. It was the most beautiful sight."

He said India looks "saare jahaan se achcha (better than the entire world)" even today -- words first used by India's first astronaut Rakesh Sharma after his space mission in 1984.

Isro chairman V Narayanan said Shukla's experiences have been documented in 4,000 pages.

▸ Shukla, Page 6

Shubhanshu Shukla at a press conference in Delhi on Thursday. AFP

'SpaceX may have brushed off leak'

SpaceX had probably taken "lightly" the liquid oxygen leak in the Falcon-9 rocket that launched the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station, putting at risk the lives for four astronauts, including Shubhanshu Shukla, Isro chairman V Narayanan said here on Thursday.
Details on Page 7

GROUND REPORT

Hebbal flyover loop eases traffic, but creates new bottlenecks

Congestion shifts to CBI flyover, Mehkri Circle and Guttahalli during morning hours, say traffic police

SHRADDHA S
BENGALURU, DHNS

The opening of the Hebbal flyover loop, connecting Nagawara, KR Puram and Mehkri Circle, on Monday has brought partial relief to the city's busiest junction, though fresh bottlenecks have surfaced.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) recorded a 31% drop in congestion at the Hebbal flyover on August 20 compared with previous Wednesdays between June and August 13. Morning peak traffic (9 am to 12 pm) reduced by 37% and evening peak (5 pm to 9 pm) by 32%. By contrast, August 19 saw only a 17% decline.

"As soon as the flyover loop was opened, there was some confusion among commuters, which was expected. But things settled down soon, and there has definitely been a positive impact," said Kartik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

A 700-metre ramp provides a direct connection between Nagawara, KR Puram and Mehkri Circle. DH FILE

A *DH* spot check confirmed the improvement.

The new loop has eased pressure at the earlier merging bottleneck, particularly where the flyover and loop once converged. It also links with the road from Esteem Mall, adding another lane. This section is under construction, but expected to open in a few months.

Despite the improvement, congestion has shifted to the CBI Road, Mehkri Circle and towards Guttahalli during morning hours. The Hebbal extension merges seamlessly, but funnels traffic into the narrower Ballari Road flyover, creating new choke points.

"Because of the new flyover, we get stuck here a lot," said Saif Ulla Khan, an auto driver. "Earlier, we could avoid the flyover to reach the city, but now congestion extends till Mekhri Circle. We have no choice but to wait."

Traffic police said mornings have improved, but evenings remain clogged as airport-bound vehicles add pressure. The jam builds at the base of the flyover where service lane traffic merges and continues along Ballari Road.

50% discount on traffic fines in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) on Thursday announced a 50% discount on pending traffic fines.

The discount will be in force from August 23 to September 12 and will apply only to e-challans.

The fines can be paid on the BTP website (https://btp.gov.in/), the Karnataka State Police/BTP ASTraM app or by visiting the nearest traffic police station or by visiting the Traffic Management Centre on Infantry Road.

Payments can also be made at KarnatakaOne or BangaloreOne Centres, too.

The police had offered a similar discount on pending traffic fines twice in 2023. DH FILE PHOTO

The BTP had offered a similar discount on pending traffic fines twice in 2023, and thousands of vehicle owners had paid up.

10-year-old schoolgirl run over by BMTC bus

Yelahanka traffic police book case, impound bus

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 10-year-old girl was killed after being run over by a BMTC bus on Kogil Main Road in Yelahanka, North Bengaluru, on Thursday morning.

This is the third fatal road accident involving a BMTC bus in three days and the fourth this month.

The victim, Tanvi Krishna, a Class 5 student, was travelling to Millennium School on a Honda Activa with her mother Harshitha and sibling when she slipped off around 8.20 am. She fell to the ground and was run over on the head by the bus. She died on the spot, while her mother and sibling suffered minor injuries.

The bus (KA57/F 5375) belonged to Depot 11 and was plying from Yelahanka to Shivajinagar, the BMTC said.

CCTV footage showed that the two-wheeler rider applied sudden brakes, lost balance, and fell towards the rear right wheel of the bus, leading to the fatal accident.

The BMTC added that when two-wheeler riders lose control and fall near the rear wheels, it becomes extremely difficult for the driver to prevent an accident.

Senior officials, including the Divisional Controller (North Zone), Divisional Traffic Officers and Divisional Mechanical Engineer, inspected the accident site.

The Yelahanka traffic police registered a case and impounded the bus.

The BMTC said that safety of passengers and the public was its top priority and promised a detailed inquiry. It added that medical assistance was being given to the injured.

Metro: Phase 3 deadline is now May 2031, cost up 5%

Due to double-decker plan, 44.65-km project yet to take off year after Centre's nod

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI & NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Geotechnical investigations on Namma Metro's Phase 3 have been completed. DH FILE PHOTO

The delay in inviting civil work tenders for Namma Metro's Phase 3 has pushed the deadline by six months and raised costs by 5%, officials in the know said.

Phase 3 will span two corridors over 44.65 km, expanding Bengaluru's metro network to 222.2 km. It received the union cabinet approval on August 16, 2024. And Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid its foundation stone on August 10 this year.

However, the state government's plan to build a double-deck (metro-cum-road) flyover along Phase 3 has delayed the groundwork.

The project is now expected to be by ready only by May 2031 — against the earlier target of 2030, at a 5% higher cost than the original Rs 15,611 crore.

The deadline may slip further during construction.

On the positive side, officials are hopeful that learnings and expertise acquired from previous projects will help avoid past mistakes and expedite construction.

While geotechnical investigations are done and utility shifting has begun, tree enumeration and cutting are still pending. Land acquisition, utility shifting and tree-cutting typically take at least a year.

Although the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) has estimated the requirement of 6,72,117 sqm, it has yet to take custody of the land.

The double-decker plan may cause more delays. The BMRCL has requested the state to bear the full cost of Rs 9,612 crore, which is still awaiting cabinet approval.

Delays around Phase 3 date back three years. The state cleared it in November 2022, but the Centre took nearly two years to give its nod.

PROJECT DETAILS

- **Corridor 1:** JP Nagar 5th Phase to Kempapura: 32.15 km; 22 stations
- **Corridor 2:** Hosahalli to Kadabagere: 12.5 km; 9 stations
- **Approved cost:** 15,611 cr
- **Escalation:** 5%
- **Deadline:** May 2031

When Ajay Seth helmed the BMRCL, he earned praise for initiating pre-construction works soon after a metro project was cleared by the state. This helped start the work on Phase 2A/2B (Silk Board Junction-KR Puram). Since his transfer in April 2021, the BMRCL has seen four MDs.

A senior BMRCL official said the delay was inevitable due to the double-decker plan, but assured that substantial progress had been achieved in other aspects.

"Because of the double-decker, a single contractor will handle both the metro line and the flyover. This required a study by a Detailed Design Consultant (DDC), which is now complete," the official told *DH*.

He added that civil tenders covering both stations and viaduct would be floated by mid-September.

Tenders will be split into eight packages: four packages related to station/viaduct and the depot will be funded by government equity, while the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will fund the rest through a Rs 6,770-crore loan.

Bidders will be given 45-60 days, and tenders for the four first packages should be finalised by mid-November. "Groundwork should start in December or January at the most," he added. He conceded that construction will take five-and-a-half years.

"We now have experienced people who can take quick decisions and avoid past mistakes," the official said.

JICA's final approval is expected by November, with an agreement to be signed by March 31, 2026. The funds will also cover trainsets, he added.

Toll hiked for two plazas on Bengaluru-Mangaluru highway

BENGALURU, DHNS: Starting September 1, vehicles will have to pay higher user fees at two toll plazas on National Highway 75 (Bengaluru-Mangaluru Road).

The revised rates will be applicable to the toll plazas at Doddakarenahalli (Bengaluru Rural district) and Karebylu (Tumakuru district). The charges will apply for a distance of 40.13 km at each toll plaza.

The monthly pass for local vehicles will be Rs 150 to Rs 300 and for school buses Rs 1,000.

Vehicle type	Single trip	Multiple trips	Monthly pass
Cars	Rs 60	Rs 85	Rs 1,745
Van/Jeep LCV	Rs 100	Rs 155	Rs 3,055
Bus/truck	Rs 205	Rs 305	Rs 6,105
Multi-axle vehicles, etc	Rs 325	Rs 490	Rs 9,815

Police chief holds peace meets ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, Eid Milad

BENGALURU, DHNS: With Ganesh Chaturthi and Eid Milad approaching, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh held a peace committee meeting on Thursday to review civic and security measures.

Seemant Kumar Singh

He directed police and civic officials to speed up road repairs, tree cutting and street lighting along procession routes. Sensitive areas have been identified, and officers are instructed to visit the spot to gather intelligence and strengthen security.

Singh also inspected Tannery Road, a major route for the Eid Milad procession, and urged officials to complete pending civil works at the earliest.

Peace meetings are being held at every police station and with community leaders to ensure adherence to festival guidelines. Organisers have been asked to obtain permissions for banners and DJs, install CCTV cameras, and avoid provocative slogans. The police are also monitoring social media to curb inflammatory content.

After decade's delay, BDA floats tender for new city master plan

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two years after the Congress-led government came to power, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has initiated work on a revised master plan (RMP) for Bengaluru with a horizon year of 2041.

While this is a much-needed development, is being prepared in the absence of a Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC), the body mandated to guide the city's development.

On Thursday, the BDA floated a global tender to select an agency to prepare the RMP 2041 for the city's local planning area. Applications close on September 30. Officials noted the process could take several years to complete.

The master plan is the primary document used by the BDA to grant approvals for buildings, layouts, and development projects. Currently, the authority still relies on the RMP 2015, prepared in June 2007, leaving Bengaluru without an updated plan for the past decade.

In November 2017, the BDA provisionally approved the RMP 2031, but later withdrew it without explanation. The process was revived in 2020, but delayed again.

Preparation of a master plan has long been contentious as it requires earmarking certain areas, including private properties, as green zones where development is barred. Such decisions often draw strong backlash from property owners and voters whose lands are designated for green space or road expansion.

B'luru hoteliers seek relief from govt over losses from delayed roadworks

BENGALURU, DHNS

Businesses have been hit by the work from Vidyapeetha towards Seetha Circle. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

The Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association has urged Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to ensure speedy completion of road repairs, citing a 50% revenue loss from prolonged works.

It has also sought a 50% cut in property tax, garbage tax, electricity charges, excise duty and licence fees to ease the financial strain.

Association president PC Rao said businesses on Seetha Circle Road, Dr Rajkumar Road, Masjid Road, Platform Road (Seshadripuram), and Mission Road were badly hit.

"No road construction is being completed within the stipulated timeframe. Projects that should take three months are dragging on for over a year," he said.

In a letter to Shivakumar, the association said: "We have seen a sharp decline in our businesses, resulting in a nearly 50% reduction in revenue. It's becoming increasingly difficult for us to maintain our establishments and pay rent, salaries, and other charges, including fixed electricity charges and licence fees that amount to around Rs 1.25 lakh per month. We urge the authorities to consider providing some relief, such as a 50% reduction in taxes and fees."

Other businesses, including bakeries, sweet shops and bars, are also affected. Pedestrians, especially senior citizens and children, face difficulties navigating these roads.

Special drive for EPF members of closed entities

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will conduct a special drive to address the challenges faced by the EPF members of closed establishments in attesting the claim and joint declaration forms.

EPF members from closed establishments under the jurisdiction of the Regional Office, Bengaluru (Malleswaram), should approach the Office of the Regional PF Commissioner located at No 13, Rajaram Mohan Roy Road, Bengaluru-560025, during office hours on working days from August 25 to 29 with the physical joint declaration/claim form, as the case may be, along with supporting documents/proofs.

They should contact Nagaraj B, Public Relation Officer, Regional Office, Malleswaram, Bengaluru, according to a press release.

Harried flyers flag unruly cab drivers at Kempegowda airport

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Passengers at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) complain of harassment from private taxi drivers crowding the arrival gates despite the airport having designated pick-up zones for cabs.

Travellers told *DH* that the drivers offer cheaper rides, but raise safety concerns since trips are not officially booked or tracked. Many also complained of their aggressive behaviour.

Jayanth, a frequent flyer, recounted a recent scuffle at Terminal 1.

"I was travelling with my family, and we had just landed around 2 am. A few drivers kept following us, offering cheaper rides. When I ignored them, they began asking my wife to take a ride with them instead. When she raised her voice to ask them to back off, they got defensive. There was barely any security around. An on-ground staff member noticed the situation and came to our help," he said.

Another commuter, Fariha Jamal, shared a similar ordeal at Terminal 2.

"I booked a cab to pick me up at the arrival gate of T2. My cab was already waiting by the gate, but he brought along another driver with him. My driver then tried to convince me to go in his friend's car, as his car was needed for another service. They kept persisting, and I felt like I was being cornered. I wanted to complain, but was not aware where to do so," she said.

Two more passengers narrated comparable experiences, highlighting the absence of visible monitoring. Many travellers prefer app-based bookings to avoid delays at official cab zones, but the pressure from unauthorised drivers continues.

Officials at the Kempegowda Airport police station maintained that they had not received any complaints. "Our officers are always on the ground at the airport. If people face any safety issues, they can file a formal complaint at the station," an official said.

Round-the-clock vigilance at KIA

An airport spokesperson said that security teams patrol the airport premises round the clock.

"In addition to our physical presence, KIAB has undertaken extensive social media campaigns and communications, both inside and outside the airport, to educate arriving passengers about choosing only authorised operators."

Travellers say drivers offer cheaper rides, but raise safety concerns since trips are not officially booked or tracked.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

COMMITMENT TO CARE

Patients, caregivers struggle as cure & govt support elude Huntington's disease

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The union and state governments have yet to include Huntington's disease in the rare category under the National Policy for Rare Diseases, a demand raised by patients and caregivers in 2024.

Recognition will enable government support for the incurable genetic disorder that affects cognition, psychiatric health, and physical movements.

The condition is usually inherited from one parent. The Huntingtin (HTT) gene on chromosome 4 leads to the amino acid sequence

called CAG. More than 40 repetitions of CAG in genetic testing indicate Huntington's disease.

Dr Sujith Kumar, a neurologist, said: "The number of repeats of CAG sequence determines the severity of the disease. The higher the number, the higher the intensity of the disease, and it starts early."

Cognitive decline in patients mirrors Alzheimer's and dementia, affecting memory and executive functions. Psychiatric issues include depression, anxiety, irritability, and psychosis, often leading to suicidal ideation.

Physical symptoms include chorea, sudden dance-like movements, and body stiffness. Over time, patients become incapacitated both mentally and physically. They are also prone to heart disease and pneumonia, common causes of death. Some patients with severe psychiatric issues end their lives by suicide.

While anti-depressants help with psychiatric problems and tetrabenazine controls chorea, there is no cure.

Dr Pramod Krishnan, HoD and Consultant (Neurology, Epileptology and Sleep Medicine), said: "Therapy is focused on medications to alleviate individual symptoms, along with physiotherapy, speech and swallow therapy. Promising therapies are at various stages of clinical trials, including gene therapy, antisense oligonucleotides and monoclonal antibodies."

Cases in children

Cases in children are fewer than in adults. Children affected live no more than 15 to 20 years.

"Body stiffness and delay in speech are some of the symptoms in children. Like Down Syndrome, Huntington's cannot be identified when the woman is pregnant," said Dr Shruti, a paediatrician.

Gene testing

The availability of genetic testing has improved diagnosis, as Huntington's was earlier misdiagnosed as dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's. "Earlier, the samples had to be sent abroad, which was not affordable. The availability of the test has helped in identifying cases," said Dr Guruprasad Hosurkar, another neurologist.

Your Dream Europe, now within reach with Veena World! If not now, then when? *Chalo*

EUROPE

at just ₹1.5 Lakhs!

(Ex-Mumbai)

veenaworld.com

Always the right choice! **Veena World Europe** Proven & Trusted by thousands!

All-Inclusive. No Hidden Costs.

Yes, you read that right! Switzerland, France, Austria, Liechtenstein, Germany- the best of Europe in one unbeatable Veena World tour. And when you return, you too can proudly say, 'We have been to Europe - with Veena World!'

Even as the Euro climbs, you still pay just ₹1.5 lakh in Indian Rupees. Who else but Veena World can make that possible? Flights, visas, hotels, AC coaches, sightseeing, meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner), driver & guide tips, and the services of a Veena World Tour Manager from Mumbai to Mumbai - absolutely everything is included. No extra charges. No hidden surprises.

And yes, whether it's Women's Special, Seniors' Special, Couples Only, Family Tours, or NextGen Tours (18–35 yrs), there is a Veena World Europe tour for everyone. Already explored these countries? Then discover Eastern, Northern, Scandinavian, Mediterranean, Baltic, Balkan, or Western Europe - crafted with the same joy, trust, and care.

So don't wait. Don't stay behind. This is your chance to live Europe the Veena World way - grand, effortless, unforgettable...

Chalo, Bag Bharo, Nikal Pado... to Europe with Veena World!

Swiss Paris Austria Germany Liechtenstein **₹150000** **Joining & Leaving 85000** EUGP - 6 Days - Nov 10,20 5 Countries, 8 Cities	European Delight **₹350000** **Joining & Leaving 270000** EUWN - 13 Days - Sept 29 12 Countries, 19 Cities	Best of Switzerland **₹255000** **Joining & Leaving 185000** EUSW - 7 Days - Oct 3 1 Country, 11 Cities
Swiss Paris Austria **₹325000** **Joining & Leaving 255000** EUSP - 11 Days - Oct 6 4 Countries, 16 Cities	Best of Italy **₹255000** **Joining & Leaving 185000** EUBI - 8 Days - Oct 8 3 Countries, 13 Cities	Women's Special Europe **₹315000** **Joining & Leaving 235000** EUWH - 11 Days - Sept 27 11 Countries, 16 Cities
European Wonders **₹322000** **Joining & Leaving 257000** EUNR - 13 Days - Oct 20 11 Countries, 21 Cities	Iceland Scandinavia Northern Lights **₹530000** **Joining & Leaving 440000** EUNI - 14 Days - Nov 27 3 Countries, 9 Cities	All of Eastern Europe **₹385000** **Joining & Leaving 310000** EUAE - 17 Days -Mar 28 9 Countries, 17 Cities
Athens Santorini Rhodes **₹270000** **Joining & Leaving 210000** EUGJ - 8 Days - Oct 19 1 Country, 4 Cities	Egypt Greece Cyprus **₹335000** EUYC - 12 Days - Oct 1 3 Country, 7 Cities	Spain Portugal **₹319000** **Joining & Leaving 249000** EUNG - 13 Days - Oct 8 2 Countries, 16 Cities
Romania Bulgaria Serbia North Macedonia **₹305000** **Joining & Leaving 245000** EUBL - 12 Days - Oct 7 5 Countries, 10 Cities	Uzbekistan Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan **₹225000** **Joining & Leaving 170000** EUKK - 9 Days - Sept 13 3 Countries, 4 Cities	Best of Baku **₹150000** **Joining & Leaving 115000** EUBQ - 7 Days - Oct 18 1 Country, 5 Cities

Business goals or family dreams

Whether it's a high-impact MICE tour or a tailor-made holiday, Veena World brings your travel vision to life with the expertise of our dedicated Corporate Tour and Customized Holidays divisions.

2026 Veena World USA @ the price of 2025 Bookings on

Veena World means **No Discounts! No Hidden Costs! No Optionals!** No extra payments on tours for optional sightseeing, driver & guide tips, meals **100% All-Inclusive**

Book Online 365 days **24x7** visit veenaworld.com

Make the most of your tour with Veena World's Pre & Post-Tour holiday packages

Main Hoon Na! Europe's vast beauty can be overwhelming to navigate, but with a dedicated Veena World Tour Manager by your side, your Europe adventure becomes stress-free and enjoyable every step of the way.

#MyEuropeWithVeenaWorld • #EuropeIn150K

Choose from Veena World's all-inclusive group tours. Find more tours in India and around the world on veenaworld.com

Join tours starting from Bengaluru/Mumbai (ex-Bengaluru/Mum) or from any location in India or globally - Joining & Leaving (J&L) tours. All tour prices are listed in thousands. The chart below displays tour name, ex-Bengaluru/Mumbai tour price (including airfare, visa & insurance), and Joining & Leaving tour price (excluding airfare, visa & insurance). The Veena World team is available to assist J&L guests with air tickets, visas, and other services. Use Veena World's RBI-authorised FOREX services for Foreign Exchange.

Europe - Western, Eastern, Northern, Mediterranean

Tour Name	Ex-Bengaluru	J&L
European Marvels (17D)	435K-445K	355K-365K
European Jewels (15D)	385K-395K	305K-315K
European Jewels with Disneyland(15D)	--	307K-317K
European Wonders (13D)	320K-330K	255K-265K
European Delight (13D)	347K-357K	267K-277K
European Highlights (11D)	310K-320K	230K-240K
European Splendours (10D)	260K-270K	195K-205K
European Panorama (8D)	240K-250K	175K-185K
European Magic (Europe with Scotland)(19D)	485K-500K	405K-410K
London Paris Swiss Italy(9D)	275K-285K	195K-205K
Swiss Paris Austria (11D)	325K-335K	255K-265K
Swiss Paris/ Swiss Austria (8D)	262K-280K	192K-200K
Swiss Paris Amsterdam Brussels (11D) Oct 22	328K-338K	285K-295K
Switzerland (7D/10D)	255K-340K	185K-280K
London Paris Swiss Italy with Disneyland (9D)	280K-290K	200K-210K
Scandinavia Northern Lights (9D/10D-with Icebreaker Cruise)	390K-430K	300K-340K
Scandinavia Iceland Northern Lights (14D/15D) Icebreaker Cruise)	530K-580K	--
Spain (10D)	270K-280K	200K-210K
Spain Portugal (13D/16D Morocco)	315K-375K	200K-290K
Greece (8D)	265K-275K	205K-215K
Greece Cyprus (9D)	295000	235K-245K
Best of Cyprus (6D)	200000	140000
Best of Egypt (9D)	210K-220K	--
Vienna Prague Budapest Bratislava (8D)	230K-240K	155K-165K
Croatia Slovenia Slovakia Hungary (12D)	310K-320K	235K-245K
Georgia Armenia (8D)	180K-190K	115K-125K
Georgia Armenia Azerbaijan (10D)	225K-235K	175K-185K
Baltic Europe Estonia Latvia Lithuania (8D)	235-245K	165K-175K
Tunisia Malta Sicily(10D)	335K-345K	--
Best of Baku (7D)	145K-155K	110K-120K

Australia NZ America Africa

Tour Name	Ex-Bengaluru	J&L
Australia (7D/9D/10D/11D/13D/15D)	200K-495K	135K-420K
New Zealand(7D/10D/15D/20D)	290K-600K	200K-510K
Australia New Zealand (11D/17D)	350K- 565K	250K-465K
American Explorer (21D)	760K-770K	620K-630K
American Splendours (18D)	670K-685K	530K-545K
American Wonders (15D)	590K-605K	450K-465K
American Magic (13D)	550K-565K	410K-425K
USA East Coast (7D)	320K-330K	200K-210K
California Carnival (10D)	435K-445K	295K-305K
Best of Hawaii Mexico (13D)	785K-800K	--
South America+Rio Carnival(21D)	1425000	--
Argentina Chile Patagonia with Australis Cruise (15D)	1195000	1065000
Antarctica (13D) Feb 3	1345000	1145000
Best of Kenya (8D)	248K-260K	200K-212K
Best of South Africa (9D)	255K-270K	210K-225K
South Africa Kenya Victoria Falls (15D)	450K-460K	--
Mauritius (7D)	155K-165K	105K-120K
Mauritius Seychelles (8D)	225K-235K	--
Tanzania Zanzibar (9D)	375K-385K	--

South East & Far East Asia

Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L
Singapore Thailand Malaysia Hong Kong (13D)	245K-250K	--
Singapore Thailand Malaysia(10D)	170K-185K	135K-150K
Singapore Malaysia Bali (10D)	200K-210K	--
Singapore Malaysia (7D)	145K-155K	115K-125K
Singapore Thailand (8D)	150K-160K	--
Singapore (4D/8D Bali)	114K-185K	91K-102K
Thailand (4D/6D/15D)	50K-175K	30K-66K
Bangkok Pattaya Phuket Krabi (8D)	115K-125K	--
Best of Bali (7D)	130K-140K	95K-105K
Vietnam (5D/8D/13D)	100K-225K	--
Vietnam Cambodia (11D)	200K-205K	--
Vietnam Bali (12D)	202K-214K	--
Philippines Manila Cebu (8D)	201000	--
HKG Macao Shenzhen (7D)	170K-185K	129K-145K
Japan (5D/7D/9D/11D/13D/15D/17D)	175K-550K	125K-500K
Japan Korea (12D)	450K-460K	400K-410K
Japan Korea Taiwan China (23D)	675K-695K	625K-645K
Korea Taiwan (10D)	350K-360K	300K-310K

Nepal Bhutan Sri Lanka Dubai India

Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L
Nepal (5D/6D/8D/9D/11D/13D)	55K- 150K	35K-130K
Bhutan (7D/9D/12D/15D)	75K-150K	55K-120K
Sri Lanka (5D/7D/9D/11D/13D)	75K-170K	50K-130K
Sri Lanka Maldives (9D/11D)	175K-205K	--
Dubai Abu Dhabi (5D/7D)	85K-140K	60K-115K
Leh Ladakh (7D/9D)	65K-85K	44K-60K
Kashmir (5D to 8D)	30K-105K	18K-90K
Shimla Manali (6D/8D)	35K-55K	28K-47K
Lahaul Spiti Chandrataal (12D)	75K-80K	63K-68K
Nainital Mussoorie Haridwar Corbett Park (6D/8D)	45K-65K	38K-58K
Char Dham (7D/9D/11D/13D)	60K-100K	--
Rajasthan (4D/6D/8D/10D/17D)	25K-97K	18K-90K
Gujarat (5D/7D/10D/13D/16D)	30K-95K	23K-85K
Maharashtra (8D to 30D)	--	70K-250K
Madhya Pradesh (5D/8D)	35K-57K	28K-49K
Varanasi Ayodhya Lucknow(8D)	60K-70K	52K-62K
Karnataka (5D/6D/8D/10D/15D)	44K-105K	36K-95K
Kerala (4D/6D/7D/8D/9D/10D/15D)	25K-105K	17K-95K
Andaman (5D/7D)	60K-80K	37K-60K

Veena World Corporate Tours (MICE)

• Meetings • Incentives • Conferences • Events

Plan conferences, gala dinners, award functions, team-building activities and more for your organisation. We also organise study tours for schools/colleges, tours for clubs & associations, destination weddings and a lot more!

Travel Now Pay Later!

EMI options available (3 months to 24 months) subject to EMI partner approval. T&C apply

Group tour price includes return airfare (Ex-Bengaluru/Mumbai), transport, accommodation, all meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner, sightseeing with entrance fees, driver-guide tips, services of a Tour Manager, VISA fee (except for Free Visa Countries) and travel insurance*. J&L tours exclude airfare, visa & insurance. USA tours are for valid USA visa holders.

Jayanagar: Sharada Plaza, 9th Main Rd, 3rd block, Jayanagar, Opp. SBI, Bengaluru 560011, Call: 887 997 2217

Indiranagar: 2005, 100 feet Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru 560038, Call: 887 997 9500

Mysore, Udupi, Mangaluru **Call: 865 575 5281**

Book Online 24x7 from anywhere on veenaworld.com Call: 1800 313 5555 I 1800 22 7979

Applications invited for Sales Partners/ Agents across Southern India WhatsApp on : 887 997 9733

Sales Partners: Karnataka: Veena World Sales Partners: Karnataka: Vijayapur 9980857595 • Hubli 7204411007 • Belgaum-College Rd 9980428880 • Belgaum-Goaves Circle 7338685500 Bengaluru-Vijayanagar 9036610005 • Malleshwaram 9663920469 Dharwad 9036715969 • Chikodi 9448627771 • Tamil Nadu: Coimbatore 9994666522 • For MICE Corporate Tours 887 997 2245

Mumbai Online 887 997 2221 • New Delhi 887 997 2700 • Hyderabad 887 997 9700 • Kolkata 887 997 2288

Bengaluru Jayanagar 887 997 2217 • Bengaluru Indiranagar 887 997 9500 • Ahmedabad 887 997 7200 • Indore 887 997 9800

VEENA WORLD

Travel. Explore. Celebrate Life.

Tour price is per person and on twin sharing basis. These tour prices are nett and no discount is applicable. At the time of booking, tour price to be paid in full INR by UPI/NEFT/RTGS/Cheque, in the name of 'Veena Patil Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.' No cash transactions at Veena World. Government taxes apply. Any increase in YQ taxes, airport taxes, VISA fees, surcharges (if any) will have to be borne by the travellers. T&C apply.

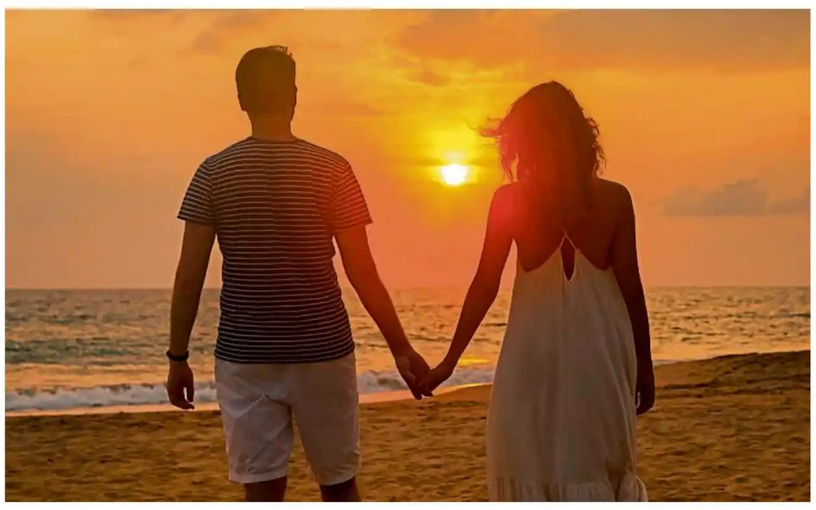
More B'luru couples choosing to be child-free

High cost of child care, hectic lifestyles, and a need for freedom are some reasons for their decision

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

A recent study has found that registered births in Karnataka have declined by 17% since 2012. The reasons are varied — from falling fertility rates to limiting the number of children per family and a decline in marriages. But therapists and sociologists point to another reason — increasingly couples are choosing not to have children.

Avinash K and his wife Naina have been married for 10 years. After giving it serious thought early in their marriage, they decided against having children. "I thought about a realistic scenario — juggling my business and the responsibilities of being a parent. It did not appeal to me," says Avinash, 40. The Lavelle Road-based couple has two dogs. When the dogs fall sick, Avinash finds it extremely stressful. "I cannot imagine what my stress levels would have been if I had kids," he reasons. The duo also leads a very busy life due to their work and travel. "We do not want to compromise on that," he adds.



Some couples feel they do not need a child to complete their family. PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

Prakriti V was clear on her position even before marriage. "My husband and I shared the same perspective. We eventually told our families. Although some family members occasionally ask when we will start a family, we respond vaguely. I do not think we are obliged to justify our decision to anyone," says the 37-year-old media professional.

The high cost of living in a tier-1 city, particularly steep school fees, was a significant factor in their decision. They are also concerned about bringing a child into a world facing severe climate change and uncertainty.

Zero restrictions

For others, like engineer Ankur M, the decision to be child-free was simply because he did not feel the need for a child to complete his family. "Earlier, my wife and I would cite the climate crisis, rising crimes against children, overpopulation, and the polarising times we live in as reasons. While all that still matters, the real reason is simple — we are happy and fulfilled as we are," he shares.

Ankur's wife, Samantha adds that they enjoy being outdoors and travelling. They rarely plan in advance. "But for parents, especially with young children, their free time usually revolves around the child's needs and activities," she says.

Though they face questions from family, they believe "having a baby just to meet their expectations would be selfish". They do not worry about their future, but sometimes wonder if they would have to work longer to support themselves, when their peers retire.

Ayesha Khan, a 28-year-old ed-tech professional, took the decision because she does not want to face the physical and psychological toll of childbirth. "I helped raise my two younger siblings, so I do not think I will be missing out on parenthood," she explains.

Lack of support

Sociologist Avatthi Ramaiah notes that in cities, it is becoming increasingly difficult to have children. With families becoming nuclear, parents lack a strong support system. The financial burden is a major deterrent. "A lot of couples are also delaying having children," he says. As a result, he sees old age homes becoming the norm in the future.

Relationship therapist Sunil John has noticed an increasing number of his clients opting to be child-free. "In the last month, I had two new clients who have chosen to not have children," he reveals.

He does not see it as a negative trend. "Many couples who make such a choice are career-focused and not ready to be parents. It is a better alternative to ruining a child's life with bad parenting," he explains.

All names of the couples mentioned have been changed to maintain anonymity.

Home chefs gear up for Ganesha habba

They are balancing tradition and the growing demand for organic and healthy alternatives

TEAM METROLIFE

Nidhi Mehta sources special home-ground rice flour from Pune for her steamed modaks.

With Ganesh Chaturthi less than a week away, home entrepreneurs in Bengaluru are busy with orders for festive foods, mainly modaks. These sweet dumplings, steamed or fried, are regarded as Ganesha's favourite. Most requests are for August 27, the main day when idols are installed in homes and apartments, while office and party orders follow later.

Nidhi Mehta of Nidhii's Kitchen is offering traditional steamed 'ukadiche' modak, along with fried modak and gujiya, at Rs 30 each. For steamed modaks, she sources a special rice flour ground in Pune, and cooks them in turmeric leaves. The Akshay Nagar resident is also making gujiyas filled with suji, mava, and dry fruits, available in sugar and sugar-free versions. *Call 80881 30591.*

An eco-friendly Ganesha-making workshop organised by HSR Citizen Forum last year.

Savitha Chandrashekar of Iyer Homemade Products has dropped steamed modak from the menu due to its shorter shelf life. Instead, she is selling fried modak with organic jaggery at Rs 9 each. Her menu also includes holige (bele or coconut filling), chakli, nippattu, rave unde, besan ladoo, karjikai, and black sesame ladoo. Orders close August 23 evening. *Call 99016 51553.*

Similarly, Sridevi Vishwanath of Mansvi Edibles has opted for modaks fried in cold-pressed oil and priced at Rs 20 each. Her festive menu includes karjikai, chakli, and thengol, all prepared with organic ingredients. Holige is available for delivery only within 10 km of her Girinagar home. Orders close August 23 evening. *Call 99720 36662.*

Jayashree Dhamne of Jaya's Home Kitchen, R T Nagar, is offering only steamed modaks. She makes them with 11 ingredients (including poppy seeds, sesame, raisins, nutmeg), featuring 11 folds on the design. She sells them as a set of 11 (minimum) — considered an auspicious number. Orders are open until August 24. *Contact @jayas.homekitchen on Instagram.*

BENGALURU GANESH UTSAVA RETURNS AT TWO VENUES THIS YEAR

The 2025 edition of Bengaluru Ganesh Utsava will be held across two venues after a four-year break. The 11-day celebration, starting on August 27, will take place at APS College Grounds and National College Grounds, both in Basavanagudi. Devotees will have access to darshan 24x7, with the 'mantap' lit up through the night by diyas.

Like last year, the festival, now in its 63rd edition, will be held in a hybrid format. According to Nandish S M, managing trustee of the Utsava, the 2024 edition drew about 45 lakh participants. They are expecting over 60 lakh visitors this year.

The APS College Grounds will host the deity and devotional concerts, while cultural programmes will be staged at the National College Grounds. The music line-up includes performances by M D Pallavi, Vijay Prakash, Raghu Dixit, Rajesh Krishnan, Vijay Yesudas, Lakshmi and Indu Nagaraj, Soorya Gayathri, Sunitha Upadrishta, Pandit Venkatesh Kumar, and child prodigy Ganga Sasidharan.

Other musical performances include 'Kashi Damaru' by Pandit Jagadeesh D Kurthikoti and troupe, and 'Bhakti Janapada Sangeetha' by Savithakka Halli Band. Actor Ravichandran will talk about his film journey.

Among the highlights is a mass chanting event on August 31. Around 25,000 people are expected to chant the Ganesha Pancharatna shlokas as they walk from APS College to Gandhi Bazaar circle via DVG Road. The 'Ganapati visarjane' procession is on September 6.

Entry free. For details, check @bengaluruganeshutsava on Instagram, or call 93420 22070/95904 43016.

TURN IDOLS INTO PLANTS

Entrepreneur Uma Rajeswari is selling a special kit to encourage home immersion of idols. Each kit, costing Rs 600, includes a 9-inch clay Ganesha idol, potting soil, a grow bag, and a herbal sapling (such as lavang tulsi, 'insulin' plant, or doddapatre). Alternatively, a kit featuring a 4.5-inch Gowri idol is available at Rs 675. "The clay left after immersion in buckets can be mixed with the soil to plant the sapling," she says. Orders are open until August 23. Call 85533 10950.

DIY CLAY GANESHA WORKSHOPS

Let's Be The Change, a non-profit, is conducting free clay Ganesha-making workshops on August 24 and 25 at its Banashankari premises. Clay will be provided. Participants should bring a steel tumbler and basic crafting tools, and a plate to carry the idol home. At 5 pm. Call 93532 18818.

Other venues are hosting paid workshops, starting at Rs 250. Many are open to participants 6 years and older, with group sizes generally capped at 25. Most will demonstrate the traditional sitting pose Ganesha.

- By HSR Citizen Forum on August 24, 9 am, at Sri Varasiddi Vinayaka Temple, HSR Layout. Call 98445 09314.
- By Tulasi Waldorf Kindergarten on August 23, 10 am, at their campus in Kengeri. WhatsApp 88619 77333.
- By Eco Cottage on August 24, 10 am, at their premises in Kalyan Nagar. Call 99451 71115.
- At Vruksha School of Fine Arts, R R Nagar, on August 24. Two batches are planned at 11 am, and 2 pm. Participants can request custom designs from facilitators. Call 63610 28096.
- Green Utsav is bringing artisans from Pottery Town to lead a workshop at Prachitee Experiential School, Whitefield, on August 25, 4 pm. WhatsApp 81977 02520.

POPCORN

Booth bungle, ah?

In response to Rahul Gandhi accusing the BJP of 'vote chori', Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar made an impassioned speech about the nobility of the electoral exercise. Why do so many people have 0 as their house number? Because, he said, India is full of homeless people, and the Election Commission makes sure they exercise their democratic right. Hence No 0. It is what he called a 'notional' number. Turns out so many things are notional, no? Like the notional language we are pushed to learn... As for footage from the voting booths, he won't make it public because who wants to expose mothers and sisters to the media glare? Yeah. But it's perfectly okay for our tax authorities to check their personal emails.

Fellowship for B'luru writer for book on Sikhs

The book will look at how the community thrives across India

PRANATI A S
TEAM METROLIFE

Amandeep Singh Sandhu

Bengaluru-based Amandeep Singh Sandhu is one among five writers chosen for the New India Foundation (NIF) Book Fellowship. The programme, which supports writers and scholars who work on the history of independent India, began in 2004. Titled 'Keeping the Faith: Sikhs who live outside Panjab, in India', Amandeep's book looks at Sikhs living in various parts of the country, including remote areas. "It was interesting to learn how they reached there and thrived, and what their vulnerabilities are at this point in time in the country's history," Amandeep tells *Metrolife*.

"After Independence, there was a sense that we are a secular nation, and that we'll be treated as equal citizens in every part of the country. But the country has been witnessing a growing parochialism. Each state wants to assert itself — my state, my language, my culture. Even people moving to different cities fail to respect the region's culture and language," he says, adding that the subtext of his book is "How do Sikhs fare in such times?" He aims to use the Sikhs as a prism through which he will look at what is happening to the country.

His father, an engineer from Punjab moved towards eastern India to work in the steel plants set up by the then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru. "Growing up, I could see a distinct change in how people treated my father earlier and how they treated him after 1984, and how the society that was earlier open to us was slowly getting closed," he says. He studied in Punjab, Hyderabad and then in Bengaluru with the sense that "we are safe everywhere and the country belongs to all of us". He adds: "What does a human being want? They want to belong. They want acceptance."

This is Amandeep's fifth book. He also received the Homi Bhabha Fellowship for fieldwork for the book, and will use NIF's fellowship to write the book. He will finish writing the book by the end of next year. He has written two novels and two non-fictions, three of which are autobiographical, and one on mental health during Covid.

Pooja kunita at BIC on Saturday

A troupe from Mandya will perform pooja kunita, a ritualistic folk dance from the old Mysore region, at Bangalore International Centre (BIC) on Saturday.

The dance is a celebration of spirituality, ancestry, and community. At the Bengaluru event, a sutradhar will explain its history, meaning, and rituals throughout the performance. Two artistes will perform acrobatics while balancing nearly 50 kilos of headgear, accompanied by musicians playing the tamte, tarsi, and nagarai. The chanting, energy, and rhythm build as the performers decorate prayer frames during the act.

Sri Vinayaka Yuvakara Kala Balaga will perform.

K B Swamy will lead the 60-minute show, presented by Sri Vinayaka Yuvakara Kala Balaga.

This is the fourth event in the BIC Jaanapada bimonthly series, which showcases Karnataka's folk traditions. It is curated by Tvarita Arts Collective India in association with BIC.

On August 23, at 11 am, at BIC, Domlur. Entry free. RSVP at bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Indian Conservatory of Paris to launch Bengaluru chapter

The Sahakarnagar space aims to promote Karnataka's heritage as also international collaborations

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

A yoga-Odissi performance held in Paris in June 2025.

The Indian Conservatory of Paris (ICParis), an institution that encourages Indian performance arts and cultural heritage in France, is opening its Bengaluru chapter on August 23 at Sahakarnagar.

Musician Bhavana Pradyumna, who founded the organisation along with her husband Pradyumna Kandadai in 2015 in Paris, said: "Our DNA is Franco-Indian. It has an international perspective by birth. We have faced unique challenges while curating events in Europe, where Indians make up less than 1% of the population."

A bimonthly bilingual magazine called 'L'Inde Éternelle: The Eternal India', will be launched on August 23.

Since its inception, ICParis has organised annual cultural festivals such as the Paris Thyagaraja Aradhana and Nrithya Nada, and conferences supported by UNESCO and the Indian Embassy.

On August 23, the centre will open with a showcase of some of Karnataka's traditions. "A bimonthly bilingual (French and English) magazine called 'L'Inde Éternelle: The Eternal India', and a campaign called 'Bengaluru's Living Treasures — As Chosen By You', to honour unsung custodians of culture from Bengaluru, will also be launched," Bhavana said.

Through the Bengaluru chapter, Bhavana aims to promote art forms such as yakshagana, dollu kunitha, veeragase, and vachana, alongside Bharatanatyam, Odissi, and Karnatik music, in a hybrid format.

"We will also document oral traditions, create cross-cultural dialogue, and support grassroots artistes with visibility and opportunities," she shared. She added that the new centre "will also introduce holistic practices like yoga with music and movement, storytelling, and literature through performance". Classes at the centre will begin on Vijayadashami day (October 2).

For more information, check @theicparis on Instagram and Facebook, or email to info@indianconservatoryofparis.com

One-day showcase of antique saris

Bengaluru-based antiques collector and textile aficionado Uma Rao's personal collection of handwoven heirloom saris will be on display as part of 'Pracheen', a showcase by Aadyam Handwoven, an initiative by the Aditya Birla Group.

A total of 23 saris will be showcased at Sabha Blr, Kamaraj Road on August 23. 79-year-old Uma has been collecting saris for over 60 years. Some of the pieces in her collection are over a century old. "I started my collection in my 20s and I hope to give it to a museum one day," she says.

The double ikat Patan patola is over 100 years old. PIC: SHEJAL TIWARI

She recalls how she chanced upon a Patan patola, the oldest piece in the collection. "While visiting Patan, Gujarat, I met a man who had a museum. In the museum I came across this double ikat piece. It was made with natural dyes. It is around 150 years old," she shares.

Some of the other weaves one can view include a Gadwal cotton sari (they do not make cotton saris in Gadwal anymore, she notes), a Sirpur sari (which belonged to her mother), a Mysore brocade with the gandaberunda motif (Mysore royal insignia, as the loom it was made in was set up by the Mysore royal family), and a Molakalmuru (which was made on a loom set up by her mother, Sudha Reddy, in 1954). "I have always loved saris and I find the beauty of naturally dyed handwoven saris so appealing," states Uma.

August 23, 11 am. At Sabha Blr, Kamaraj Road. For details, call 98450 24823.

EVENTS

Workshop

'Modern Filial Piety: Balancing Compassion for ourselves and our loved ones', a workshop on Zoom begins on August 23, 2 pm. It explores ancient values like seva, karuna and upeksha for modern caregiving. Limited seats are available. For details, WhatsApp +65 9154 6054.

Performance

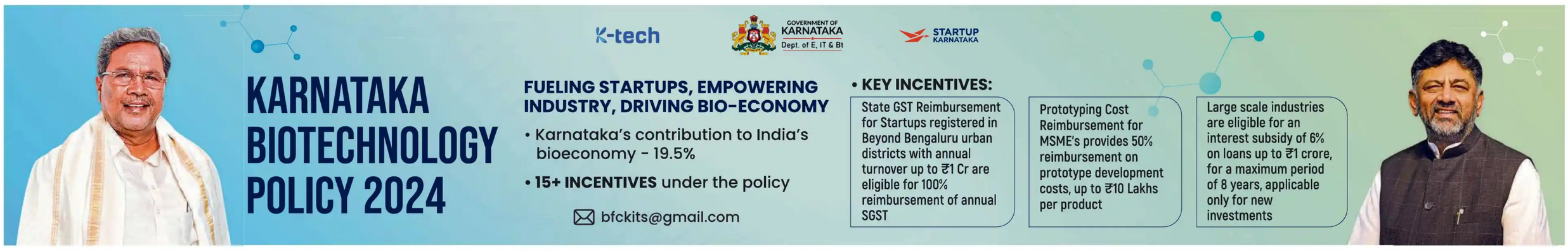
'Talk to Me: A Devised Performance Using Indian Sign Language, Text & Image' conceived and directed by Anuja Ghosalkar, will be held on August 26, 7 pm at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Entry free, RSVP mandatory.

Music

The Kiara Academy of Performing Arts choir and dance ensemble will perform 'In the mood: Take 5' on August 23 and 24, 6 pm at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval. For details, call 98452 74846.

Talk

'Art in Motion: Girish Kasaravalli on the Centrality of Women in his Cinema', a conversation with Girish Kasaravalli and Suresh Jayaram will be held on August 23, 5 pm at Museum of Art and Photography, Kasturba Road. Free entry, registration mandatory.


K-tech
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Dept. of E, IT & Bt
STARTUP KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY 2024
FUELING STARTUPS, EMPOWERING INDUSTRY, DRIVING BIO-ECONOMY
• Karnataka's contribution to India's bioeconomy - 19.5%
• 15+ INCENTIVES under the policy
bfckits@gmail.com
• KEY INCENTIVES:
State GST Reimbursement for Startups registered in Beyond Bengaluru urban districts with annual turnover up to ₹1 Cr are eligible for 100% reimbursement of annual SGST
Prototyping Cost Reimbursement for MSME's provides 50% reimbursement on prototype development costs, up to ₹10 Lakhs per product
Large scale industries are eligible for an interest subsidy of 6% on loans up to ₹1 crore, for a maximum period of 8 years, applicable only for new investments

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Institute of Public Health: 20th Anniversary; Dinesh Gundu Rao, UT Khader, Uma Mahadevan and others; AV Ramarao Hall, Indian Institute of Science; 10 am.

Jain Deemed-to-be University: Conference on 'Advancing Technology-Converting Visionary Ideas into Real World Solutions'; Varsity premises, Lalbagh Road, Sudham Nagar; 9.30 am.

CULTURAL

Rangasampada: Staging of Belur Raghunandan's play 'Sharmishthe' by Umashree; Directed by Chidambararao Jambe; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 7 pm.

Rangamandala: 'Pootani' Yakshagana recital by Asha Raghu; Kalagrama, Mallattahalli; 6.30 pm.

Kaladarpana Art Reflect: State-level drawing competition, cultural programmes and other events; Shivaraj Tangadagi and others; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 8.30 am.

Kalantariksham: Bharatanatya recital; JSS Hall, Jayanagar; 4 pm.

Vachana Jyoti Balaga: Vachana recital by TM Janaki followed by a discourse by S Pinakapani; SS Public School, Sunkadakatte; 9.30 am.

Sangamam: Violin recital by Jyotsna Srikanth; Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield; 9 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	76%
Sunset (Aug 22)	6:38 pm
Sunrise (Aug 23)	6:08 am
Moonrise	4:09 am
Moonset	5:21 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

SC bins appeal against bail to UAPA accused for attending 'jihadi' meetings

Upholds grant of bail by K'taka HC to one accused, denial to another

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed an appeal filed by the union government against the Karnataka High Court's April 21, 2022 order, which granted bail to a man, arrested initially by the Bengaluru police under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for participating in 'jihadi' meetings of Al Hind.

A bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice KV Vishwanathan upheld the grant of bail to accused Saleem Khan and denial of similar relief to another accused Zaid Khan.

Without delving deep into the facts and the reasonings, the bench said, "The Karnataka High Court has dealt with all aspects in great detail. The reasons given for grant of bail to Saleem Khan, and reasons given for refusal to grant bail to accused Mohd Zaid in our considered opinion is fully justified and reasonable."

The Apex Court said, in the case of Saleem, the high court noticed the allegations found in the charge sheet related to his connections with an organisation by name Al Hind, which admittedly is not a banned organisation under the schedule to UAPA.

Therefore, to say that he was attending meetings of the said organisation, Al Hind and others would not amount to any prima facie offence, the bench said, citing the high court order. It said the order was passed almost three-and-a-half years ago.

"As such, it may not be just and proper to interfere with the same at this stage. Further, it is admitted position at the bar that the charges have not been framed so far and the trial has not commenced," the bench said.

On Zaid, the bench said the high court has found his involvement with banned terrorist organisations, his active role in operating dark web and assisting members of banned terrorist organisations.

"The reasons given by the high court are based upon the material collected during investigation and as reflected in the charge sheet. The high court further noticed the involvement of Zaid in another case under UAPA. Although, we may record here that in the said case arising from the State of Tamil Nadu, he has been granted bail by the Madras High Court. We, therefore, find that the Karnataka High Court was justified in not granting bail to him," the bench said.

The bench, however, directed the trial court to expedite the proceedings and conclude it within a period of two years as more than 100 witnesses are to be examined by the prosecution.

"The fact remains that the trial has not commenced despite lapse of five-and-a-half years. The accused cannot be allowed to languish in jail without being given a fair and speedy trial," the bench said.

As many as 17 accused were named in the FIR, registered by the Suddanguntepalaya police on January 10, 2020. The case was later referred to the National Investigating Agency (NIA), which re-registered the case on Janaury 22, 2020.

Saleem was arrested on Janaury 20, 2020 and Zaid on March 9. The charge sheet was filed on July 13.

Special trains from Bengaluru to Bidar, Tirunelveli, Madgaon, Dhanbad & Lucknow

BENGALURU, DHNS

The South Western Railway (SWR) will operate special trains connecting Bengaluru with various cities to decongest regular trains for the Ganesh Chaturthi, Dasara, Deepavali and Chhath festivals:

Bengaluru-Bidar

Train number 06549 will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 9.15 pm on August 26 and reach Bidar at 11.30 am the next day.

Train number 06550 will leave Bidar at 2.30 pm on August 27 and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 4.30 am the next day.

Mysuru-Tiruvenelvi

Train number 06241 will leave Mysuru at 8.15 pm on August 26 and reach Tirunelveli at 10.50 am the next day.

Train number 06242 will leave Tirunelveli at 3.40 pm on August 27 and arrive at Mysuru at 5.50 am the next day. Both trains will ply via Bengaluru.

Bengaluru-Madgaon

Train number 06569 will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 1 pm on August 26 and reach Madgaon at 5.30 am the next day.

Train number 06570 will leave Madgaon at 6.30 am on August 27 and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 11.40 pm the same day.

Yeshwantpur-Dhanbad

Train number 06563 Yeshwantpur–Dhanbad Weekly Express Special will run every Saturday from August 23 to December 27. It will depart from Yeshwantpur at 7.30 am and reach Dhanbad at 11 am on Mondays.

Train number 06564 Dhanbad–Yeshwantpur Weekly Express Special will run every Monday from August 25 to December 29. It will leave Dhanbad at 8.45 pm and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 9.30 pm on Wednesdays. Both trains will make 19 trips in each direction.

Bengaluru-Lucknow

Train number 06529 SMVT Bengaluru–Gomti Nagar (Lucknow) Weekly Express Special will run every Monday from August 25 to November 3. It will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 7 pm and reach Gomti Nagar at 11.30 pm on Thursdays.

Train number 06530 Gomti Nagar–SMVT Bengaluru Weekly Express Special will run every Friday from August 29 to November 7.

It will leave Gomti Nagar at 12.20 am and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 8.15 am on Mondays.

Both trains will make 12 trips in each direction.

WALK-IN INTERVIEW SRM UNIVERSITY AP Andhra Pradesh

SRM University-*AP*, Amaravati is seeking talented, motivated, and research-oriented faculty members to fill various positions in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE).

Positions: Assistant Professor/Associate Professor/Professor

Qualification: Ph.D. in CSE with excellent academic and publication records or industry experience. Candidates who have submitted their thesis can also apply.

Compensation: 15,00,000 - 40,00,000 LPA

Highlights:

- Support for research through Professional Development Allowance, Seed Grant (Upto 50 Lakhs) and allotment of Ph.D. Scholars/Postdocs.
- Encouragement for patent publication, consultancy and technology transfer through our dedicated research centres.
- Attractive compensation based on qualifications and experience. Compensation will not be a constraint for exceptional candidates.
- Subsidised accommodation (subject to availability), full support in finding nearby accommodation, on-campus childcare facilities and free local transport to the campus for work and back in selected routes.
- Comprehensive medical cover for self and family (including Parents/In-Laws) - Rs.5,00,000/-
- Term life insurance - Rs.15,00,000/-

Interested candidates are requested to attend the walk-in interview.

Date: August 24, 2025 | Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Venue: Davanam Sarovar Portico Suites, Hosur Rd, opp. Madiwala Police Station, Sidharata Colony, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560068

For any queries, please contact: +91 9032067774 / 8977785846

OPENS TOMORROW

THE GLAMOUR EDIT

OWN THE NEW LOOK

HI LIFE

EXHIBITION

Fashion | Style | Decor | Luxury

OVER 250+ OF THE FINEST DESIGNERS

23.24.25 AUG

THE LaLiT ASHOK BANGALORE

10 am - 8 pm | Valet Parking | Entry fee Rs.100

HC sets aside age bar; directs compassionate appointment

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Dharwad bench of the Karnataka High Court has directed the North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) to appoint a 49-year-old widow on compassionate grounds, setting aside the bar on age prescribed in service rules.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Lakshmavva, a resident of Shirahatti in Gadag district. Lakshmavva's husband, Ramanna Goshellanavar, who was working as controller-cum-depot manager at the Shirahatti depot, died in harness in 2021. The couple had no children. Following his death, she applied for a Group 'D' post, saying her qualifications met the eligibility criteria.

The NWKRTC rejected her application, citing the upper age limit of 45 years for such appointments. Officials pointed out that even with relaxation provided to SC/ST applicants, Lakshmavva was ineligible, as she was 45 years and seven months old at the time of applying.

Lakshmavva told the court she sought employment only because she had no one to take care of her after her husband's death. Her lawyer argued that such cases had to be seen with compassion and that a mechanical application of service rules would deny her the right to livelihood.

Justice Govindaraj agreed, observing that the denial of appointment in this case was not only unjust but also against the spirit of social justice. "In such cases, a strict implementation of the upper age limit would only cause injustice and would not be in the interest of social justice, which is required to be advanced by an authority under the State," he said. The judge noted that Lakshmavva was a widow with no dependents and that her husband had died while serving the corporation. "The order passed by the respondents is not humane and has in fact, caused injustice to the widow of a deceased employee," he remarked, while directing the NWKRTC to appoint her at the Shirhatti depot.

The court also made a larger observation, asking the corporation to revisit its policies on compassionate appointments. "The corporation's managing director is requested to look into these kinds of matters to formulate an appropriate humane policy, which would be in best interest of employees and their families in the event of an employee dying during service," the judge said.

Bike taxis' return: Drivers cheer, auto & pvt transport groups call it 'illegal'

Services halted on June 16; many drivers shifted to delivery apps

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The return of bike taxi services in Bengaluru has given rise to mixed reactions.

While drivers remain overjoyed, auto driver and private transport associations have called the revival of the service an "illegal act". Drivers that *DH* spoke to were under the impression that the High Court of Karnataka had ruled in favour of bike taxi services.

"As soon as I logged in, I started getting back-to-back ride requests. Customers, too, were happy that bike taxis were back on the road. Hopefully, this time around, bike taxis are back for good," said a 26-year-old driver, who was working at a mechanics workshop in the interim.

The Bike Taxi Welfare Association, with 12,000 members, welcomed the court's oral observations questioning the blanket ban. Customers also lauded the resumption.

"Several citizens are dependent on bike taxis, not just for livelihood but also as a mode of transport. To travel within the city, bike taxis remain one of the most efficient and cost-friendly modes of transport. For a college student on a limited budget, this has been my saviour on multiple occasions," said Neha Jain, a postgraduate student.

The Bike Taxi Welfare Association, with 12,000 members, welcomed the court's oral observations questioning the blanket ban. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

While bike taxi services were suspended on June 16, many drivers had shifted to food delivery apps.

"At Rapido, we were told that they'd hire us bike taxi drivers as food delivery agents for their new app. But two months in, and we had yet to hear any news about that. I had applied for a job at multiple places, but didn't receive a positive response," shared another driver. The 29-year-old was stuck doing odd jobs for the past two months.

In contrast to the joyous welcome, the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Association wrote to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, calling for immediate action to be taken against bike taxi aggregators for "willful disobedience of court orders".

It said Rapido had "mischaracterised" an oral observation to "not take precipitative action" and asked the department to file a civil contempt petition.

"There has been no interim stay, so on what basis have these platforms brought back bike taxi services? They have misused the court's oral advice and are taking advantage of it. This is a contempt of court. We hope the Transport Department takes strict action and treats it as such. If the transport department does not do this, we will take legal action against the aggregator platforms," said Nataraj Sharma, federation president.

The Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union has also taken a similar stand and written a letter to the transport minister. Auto drivers across the city plan to protest if bike taxis make a permanent return.

Chitradurga girl killed after she demanded boy to marry her: SP

CHITRADURGA, DHNS: The college student found strangled to death near National Highway in Chitradurga was murdered after she demanded the accused to marry him, the Superintendent of Police has said.

Post mortem report disclosed that she was eight-month pregnant, the SP added. Addressing a press meet here on Thursday, SP Ranjith Kumar Bandaru said that both were in love for the past 10 months.

"The accused was working in a Gangavathi-based recruitment firm. He got in touch with the girl on a social media platform. He hatched the conspiracy to murder her after the girl demanded him to marry her."

The suspect Chethan strangled the girl to death and set her body on fire by pouring petrol on it on August 18 noon. However, rains doused the fire and again the same night the accused set the body on fire. The body was found the next day, the SP added. He said that they traced the accused within hours after the crime came to light. The SP said that the accused is suffering from third stage blood cancer. The girl moved away from him after she came to know about it. However, she demanded him to marry her after she realised that she was pregnant.

F.No. AE-18/4/2022-Admin Section -CMLRE(e 240)
Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE)
Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
Atal Bhavan, LNG Road, Puthuvype, Ochanthuruth P.O., Kochi, India

WALK IN INTERVIEW

Walk-in-interview to fill the vacancies against Project Scientist-II (02 Nos.) and Project Scientist-I (02 Nos) in the Mission Mausam components (2024-26) of CMLRE will be held at CMLRE, Puthuvype campus.
Qualified candidates will be engaged as the respective post for a period upto March 2026 or till the tenure of the project. For details visit **www.cmlre.gov.in**

Dated 21.08.2025

Sd/-
Under Secretary and HOO

CBC-12110/11/0001/2526

PUBLIC NOTICE

Publics are hereby informed that my client **M/s DS-Max Properties Pvt.Ltd.**, Rep; by its Authorized Signatory **Mr Shivashankar Chikkeri**, Having its Office at No. 1854, 17th Main, 30th 'B' Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bengaluru- 43 and intend to enter into Absolute Sale Deed with Owner/s **Smt Nagarathnamma.J** w/o Sri Nanjundappa.G.N and another are the absolute joint owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy.No. **76**, New Sy. No. **76/4**, which measuring **1 acre 20 guntas**, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No. 78/1, **West by:** Remaining Land of same Sy.No. 76 belongs to Sri.Shivanna, **North by:** Land of Sy.No. 96/1, **South by:** Remaining Land of same Sy.No. 76 and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.I**.

WHEREAS Sri Purushotham M s/o Late D.S. Munishamagowda and another are the absolute joint owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy.No. **76/1**, New Sy. No. **76/5**, which measuring **4 acres 20 guntas**, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No. 78, **West by:** Land of Sy.No. 144, **North by:** Private Lands, **South by:** Land of Sy.No. 76/3 & 76/2 and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.II**.

WHEREAS Sri Naveen Kumar s/o Sri Umakumar and another are the absolute joint owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **78/1**, which measuring **4 acre 08.08 guntas** and exclusive of **12 guntas 'B'** kharab land, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on **East by:** N.H.Road No. 7, **West by:** Land of Sy.No. 76 & 77, **North by:** River Besin, **South by:** Land of Sy.No. 77 & Government Land and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.III**.

WHEREAS Smt Savitha.Y.G w/o Sri Gangahanumaiah and another are the absolute joint owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy. No. **78/2**, New Sy.No. **78/6**, which measuring **2 acre 08.08** guntas and exclusive of **02 guntas 'B'** kharab land, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on **East by:** Bangalore – Ballari Road N.H.7 Road, **West by:** Land of Sy.No. 78/1, **North by:** Land of Sy.No. 82 & Lake Besin, **South by:** Land of Sy.No. 78/1 and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.IV**.

WHEREAS Mr Hemanth Kumar.R s/o Sri Renukaiah is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy. No. **78/1**, New Sy. No. **78/3**, which measuring **05.08 guntas**, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on **East by:** Remaining portion of Sy.No. 78/1, **West by:** Land belongs to C.S.Ramakrishna Shetty, **North by:** 40 feet Road, **South by:** Land of Sy.No. 77 and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.V**.

WHEREAS Sri C.S.Ramakrishna Shetty s/o Late Chikkasubbaraya Shetty is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy. No. **78/1**, New Sy. No. **78/4**, which measuring **09 guntas**, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Mr.Hemanth Kumar, **West by:** Land of Sy.No. 76 & 40 feet Road, **North by:** 40 feet Road, **South by:** Land of Sy.No. 77 and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.VI**.

WHEREAS Sri B.Mahesh s/o Sri Jaganath and others are the absolute joint owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy. No. **78/1**, New Sy. No. **78/5**, which measuring **05.08 guntas**, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No.78/1, **West by:** Land of Sy.No.78/1, **North by:** 40 feet Road, **South by:** Land of Sy.No.77 and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.VII**.

WHEREAS Sri Sathyanarayana Shetty s/o Sri Keshavayya Shetty and others are the absolute joint owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy. No. **78/1**, New Sy. No. **78/7**, which measuring **05.08 guntas**, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No.78/1, **West by:** Land of Sy.No.78/5, **North by:** 40 feet Road, **South by:** Land of Sy.No.77 and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.VIII**.

WHEREAS Sri Challa Kishore s/o Sri Challa Kesava Rao and others are the absolute joint owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy. No. **78/1**, New Sy. No. **78/8**, which measuring **05.08 guntas**, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No.78/1, **West by:** Land of Sy.No.78/1, **North by:** 40 feet Road, **South by:** Land of Sy.No.77 and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.IX**.

WHEREAS Sri Katakam Pavan Kumar s/o Sri Katakam Balasubramanyam and another are the absolute joint owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy. No. **78/1**, New Sy. No. **78/9**, which measuring **05.08 guntas**, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No.78/5, **West by:** Land of Sy.No.78/3, **North by:** 40 feet Road, **South by:** Land of Sy.No.77 and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.X.**

WHEREAS Sri Nekkanti Anudeep s/o Sri Nekkanti Satyanarayana and another are the absolute joint owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy. No. **78/1**, New Sy. No. **78/10**, which measuring **05.08 guntas**, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on **East by:** Remaining Land of Sy.No.78/1, **West by:** Remaining Land of Sy.No.78/1, **North by:** Land of Sy.No.94 (Lake), **South by:** 40 feet Road and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.XI**.

WHEREAS Sri N.Parithosh Murthy s/o Sri Nagaraja Murthy is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy. No. **78/1**, New Sy. No. **78/11**, which measuring **05.08 guntas**, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. and bounded on **East by:** Remaining Land of Sy.No.78/1, **West by:** Remaining Land of Sy.No.78/1, **North by:** Land of Sy.No.94(Lake), **South by:** 40 feet Road and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.XII**.

WHEREAS Smt Nagarathnamma.J w/o Sri.Nanjundappa J.N and another are the absolute joint owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **96/3**, which measuring **1 acre 26 guntas** and exclusive of **07 guntas 'A'** kharab land and exclusive of **0.0.12 gunta 'B'** kharab land, situated at **Guvalakanahalli Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No.78/1 & Kharab, **West by:** Land belongs to Shettappa, **North by:** Land belongs to Shettappa, **South by:** Land of Sy.No.78 and referred to as schedule property of **Item.No.XIII**.

which total measuring of **Item.No.I to XIII = 15 Acres 10.08 guntas** and exclusive of **07 guntas 'A'** kharab land and **14.012 guntas 'B'** kharab land and commonly bounded on **East by:** N.H.Road, **West by:** Private Lands, **North by:** Private Lands, **South by:** Private Lands and referred to as **"composite schedule property".**

Any Person or Any Authorities or Any Promoters having any asserting right, title, interest and claims to oppose for Absolute Sale Deed of property and further having any manner of right, title, claims etc., and may lodge their objections, claims over the property along with relevant papers in support of their claims, right to the below address within **10** days from the date of this notice, if any objections fails to comply, my client shall take further steps and shall deemed for entering into Absolute Sale Deed of property.

LINGARAJ. S. NADAGOUDA.,
ADVOCATE
No.1854, 17th Main, 30th 'B' Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore - 560 043.
Mob : 96204 74780 , 94481 35970

CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE
Electrical Work

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No. :** SUR/TD/T/2025/12 **Name of Work:** Electrical TRD portion of works in connection with 1) Yard improvement / upgradation works like CTR (P), TRR (P), TSR (P), CTR (S), TBR manually and TBR T/out under Sr.DEN (S) Solapur jurisdiction & Sr. DEN (C) Solapur jurisdiction. 2) T/Out related works under Sr.DEN (S) Solapur jurisdiction & Sr. DEN (C) Solapur jurisdiction for Yard improvement / upgradation works. **Estimated cost:** ₹ 95,43,225/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,90,900/- **Completion Period:** 12 Months **Validity of offer:** 60 Days **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 12/09/2025 at 15.00 hrs.

Sr. Divisional Elect. Engineer (TRD)
Apex-69 **Central Railway, Solapur**

अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-Open Tender Notice No:-S/RWP/E/2025-26/11 dated: 20.08.2025. Principal Chief Materials Manager /Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in**, for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **SN. :** 1, **Tender No.:** 01251019, **Short Description of item:** Taper Ingate sleeve (B-21), **Quantity :** 1549 Nos, **Date of Tender Closing/Opening:** 08.09.2025 at 14:00 Hrs., **SN. :** 2, **Tender No.:** 02255172, **Short Description of item:** Upgradation of existing CNC controller and servo drive controller, **Quantity :** 01 Set, **Date of Tender Closing/Opening:** 13.09.2025 at 14:00 Hrs., **SN. :** 3, **Tender No.:** 01251140, **Short Description of item:** Ms pipe 32 mm Dia, **Quantity :** 33380 Mtr, **Date of Tender Closing/Opening:** 12.09.2025 at 14:00 Hrs., 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in**. 2. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/Cancellation with respect to the above tender. **For PCMM/RWP/Bela**
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2025-26/58

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
NATIONAL REMOTE SENSING CENTRE
BALANAGAR, HYDERABAD 500 037

Advt.No/NRSC/RMT/3/2025 DT. 22.08.2025

National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), one of the constituent Centres of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Department of Space (DOS) is inviting online applications for one year Apprenticeship training in the following categories:

S.No.	Discipline	No. of positions
1	Graduate Apprentice (B.Li.Sc/B.E/B.Tech)	11
2	Graduate Apprentice (B.A/B.Sc/B.Com)	30
3	Diploma in Engineering in any discipline	30
4	Diploma In Computer and Commercial	25

For detailed advertisement candidates are advised to vist NRSC website: **www.nrsc.gov.in.**

Important Date(s) to Remember:

Opening date for Receipt of Online Applications	22.08.2025
Closing date for Receipt of Online Applications	11.09.2025

"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply"

CBC -49112/11/0005/2526

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221

Open E-Tender Notice No: RWP/STORES/WORKS/ADVT/25-26/07, Dated: 20.08.2025. Tender No. S_RWP_TPT_RAIL_2025-26_01A, Due on 22.09.2025. "Principal Chief Materials Manager /Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites online "e-Open Tender" through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in** for transportation of Scrap Rail. **1. Name of work with its location, Qty. and completion period. :** Transportation of Scrap Cut Rails. The above work involves (i) Collection of Scrap Rails at Various Railway, Units/Locations (ii) Cutting of scrap Rails to a length size measuring up to 3 (three) Meters (iii) Loading of the Scrap cut Rail in to the vehicle (iv) Transportation of scrap cut Rail from various locations of Indian Railway to Rail Wheel Plant Bela, Saran, Bihar-841221 under distance slab 0-500KM (taking average lead distance 250KM). Unloading at destination shall be done by Railway. Qty. 1144000 MT-KM Completion period: 12 months from the date of issuance of LOA. **2. Approx. cost of the work :** Rs. 63,83,520.00, **3. Earnest Money to be Deposited :** Rs. 1,27,700/-, **4. Tender closing date and time :** 22.09.2025 up to 14:15 hrs., **5.** Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (**www.ireps.gov.in**) for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

PCMM, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2025-26/57

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION
ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WORK

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, General, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No.: SUR/L/T/2024/28R4. Name of work**: Annual Maintenance Contract of AC package unit of various make fitted on LHB type AC coaches of roof mounted design of Solapur Division for a period of two years. (Reinvitation). **Estimated cost**: Rs. 2,17,65,593.59. **Bid Security**: Rs. 2,58,800. **Completion Period**: 24 Months. **Validity of offer**: 90 Days **Date & time of tender closing on website**: 12/09/2025 at 15.00 hours. Bid Security cost shall be paid through e-payment on **www.ireps.gov.in** website.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Asst.)
APEX-66 **Central Railway, Solapur**

खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है

NO.A.12022/26/2016-E.IV
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
(Department of Commerce) Vanijya Bhavan, New Delhi

Applications are invited for the post of Vice Chancellor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi. IIFT established as a Society under the Department of Commerce in the year 1963 was granted the status of Deemed University by the University Grants Commission in 2002.

2. Details of the post are available on the website of Department of Commerce **(https://www.commerce.gov.in)** under **"Vacancies Section"**, Department of Personnel and Training **(https://www.dopt.gov.in)** and IIFT's website **www.iift.ac.in.**

3. Applications in prescribed format, alongwith requisite information, may be sent to Shri Siddharth Mahajan, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Room No. 442, Vanijya Bhavan, New Delhi-110001, within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

CBC 05103/12/0008/2526

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs
3rd Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Jharkhand
Ranchi -834002

Letter No- Kha.Up.ni.-24/chini-01/2025-**1369** Date- 20/08/2025

Tender/Bid Cancellation Notice

Tender Reference No. Kha.Up.ni.-24/Chini-01/2025-995, GEM/2025/B/ 6406845 Dated:03/07/2025 For Supply of Free Flow White Crystal Sugar (Grade-S-30/M-30) (As Per FSSAI Norms) for 1st Quarter (April 2025 to June 2025) of Financial Year 2025-26 by reverse e-auction through GeM Portal with NIT Reference No.- 1006 Dated-03/07/2025, PR No. 356437 is hereby cancelled due to single responsive bid.

Sd/-
(Dilip Tirkey)
Director

PR 360033 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs(25-26)D

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION
ENGINEERING WORK

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for the following works. **Sr. No.: 1. Tender Notice No.: 28-2025-SrDENC. Name of Work**: **1.** Construction of Railway hospital at KWV. **2.** Augumentation & improvement of staff room & office for C & W department related with BPC examination at KWV. **Approximate Cost of the work**: Rs 3,27,82,192.77. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 3,13,900/-, **Completion period of the work**: 12 Months. **Maintenance Period**: 12 Months. **Sr. No.: 2. Tender Notice No.: 29-2025-SrDENC. Name of Work**: Proposal of construction of the 20 bedded barrack at LUR. **Approximate Cost of the work**: Rs 1,33,31,218.35. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 2,16,700/-. **Completion period of the work**: 12 Months. **Maintenance Period**: 12 Months. **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website**: on 11.09.2025, 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in**: On 11.09.2025 at 15.30 hrs The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Divisonal Railway Manager, Central Railway, Solapur
APEX-68

खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER
Electrical (Project) Branch.

The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Project), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders (EPC mode) from the reputed and experienced contractors through ON-Line for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **NIT No.-**JBP-PROJECT-EPC-2024-01R dt: 18.08.2025. **Name of work with location-**Design/ Modification, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132kV/2X25 kV Scott connected Traction Sub Station and switching posts with AT between feeding Incorporating SCADA System between Katni (Excl.)- Singrauli (Excl.) Section of Jabalpur Division W C Railway in connection with Up-gradation of Electric Traction System from 1x25 kV to 2x25 kV Traction Systen for Katni-Singrauli section of WCR to meet 3000 MT loading target. **Approx. cost of the work (in Rs.)-**Rs 165,56,35,158/-, **cost of tender form-**nil, **Address of the office-**Dy.CEE/Project/ Jabalpur, West Central Railway G-floor, CPM-Electrical building, Aside Railway stadium, JBP- 482001, (M.P.), **Bid Security (in Rs.)-**Rs. 84,28,200/-, **Completion period-**18 months, **Date & Time for submission of tender-**29.09.2025 (Up to 11.00 hrs.), **Date & Time for opening of tender-**08.10.2025. (at 11.00 hrs.) Complete details of tender document available on the Railway website https://ireps.gov.in and also placed on notice board of Dy.CEE/P/JBP office.

(SD.)
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Project),WCR, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान, एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION
Haji Ali Park, K. Khadye Mnrg. Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400 034. Website www.aiipmr.gov.in

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission in the following courses for the academic year 2025-26.

Name of the Course	Duration	Eligibility Requirement
(UNDERGRADUATE)	1	ADMISSION BASED ON NEET-UG 2025 SCORE
Bachelor of Prosthetics & Orthotics (BPO)	4 & 1/2 Years	Candidates should apply with current year NEET Score and Class 12 Mark sheet on or before. 19/09/7025. The candidate must be an Indian National.
POSTGRADUATE	**II**	**ADMISSION BASED ON ENTRANCE TEST TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE INSTITUTE**
1. Master of Prosthetics & Orthotics (MPO)	2 years	> Bachelor's degree in Prosthetics and Orthotics (P & O) from an Institute/ College recognised by Rehabilitation Council ot India with compulsory completion of Internship of 6 months. > Date of completion of internship-On or before **30/09/2025.** > Certificate of registration with Rehabilitation Council of India. New Delhi. > The candidate must be an Indian National. > Candidates who have obtained B.P.O. degree from distance learning mode will not be eligible. (As per MUHS Circular No.8/2017 & Outward No. MUHS /C-5/PG. Allied/1280/2017 dated I6.8.2017)
2. Master of Physiotherapy (MPT)	2 years	> Bachelor's degree in Physiotherapy from a recognized University, other than Distance Education and Agricultural University, with completion of six months compulsory Internship. > Date of completion intership - On or before **30/09/2025.** > Certificate of registration with Maharashtra State Occupational Therapy & Physiotherapy Council.# > The candidate must be an Indian National.
3. Fellowship Course in Rehabilitation Physiotherapy (FCRPT)	1 year	
4. Master of Occupational Therapy (MOTh)	3 years	> Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy from a recognized University other than Distance Education and Agricultural University with completion of Six months compulsory Internship. > Date of completion of Internship - On or before. **30/09/2025.** > Certificate of registration with Maharashtra State Occupational Therapy & Physiotherapy Council *.# > The candidate must be an Indian National.
5. Fellowship Course in Rehabil ilalion Occupational Therapy (FCROT)	1 Year	

A) APPLICATION FORMS & PROSPECTUS: i) Application, Form & prospectus can be downloaded from the Institute website is **www.aiipmr.gov.in** ii) Duly filled in application form is to be mailed to this institute along with application fees.
B) Application fee(Non-Refundable for BPO. MPO. MPT. FCRPT. MOTh. FCROT courses is as given below:-
i) For MPO, MPT, FCRPT, MOTh, FCROT courses, for general category candidates - Rs.800/- and for SC/ST/PH Category Candidates Rs.600/-.
ii) For BPO course for general category candidates Rs.600/-. And for SC/ST/PH category Candidates it is Rs.400/-.
iii) Payment will be accepted in the form of Demand Draft only from a Nationalized Bank, to be drawn in favour of Director. AIIPMR' Payable at Mumbai. The fee once paid is non-refundable and non- transferable under any circumstances.
iv) For PG courses, entrance Examination date is **21/09/2025.** Last dale for submission of Filled in application forms is **12/09/2025** Application received after last date will be rejected.
C) Other relevant details are mentioned in the Prospectus. Applicants are requested to go through the same before applying.
D) Reservation for SC/ST/OBC/PH and EWS will be done according to prevailing Guidelines.

Note: - Admissions are subject to grant of affiliation from the University and recognition by respective councils for all courses. # for candidate from out of Maharashtra, time will be given to obtain the same with payment of **late fee to be paid to the University.** Changes in date if any will be updated on the Institutes website **aiipmr.gov.in** Candidates are instructed to check the same regularly. The institute reserves the right to change or cancel the admission process at any stage.

CBC 17134/12/0001/2526 **Sd/- Director**

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 12/2025; Dated: 19-08-2025.
E-tenders are invited for the following work:-

Description	Tender Quantity PL Code Nos.	Tender Due on
SN. 1, Tender No. 04255098A (04255112, 04255157)		
Underground armoured unscreened Railway signaling cable, PVC insulated copper conductor spec. No. IRS:S:63/2014 (Rev.4.0) or latest of size 12 core×1.5 sq.mm.	561196330043= 140.00 KM 561196540025 =34.00 KM 56509959 =169.00 KM	**05-09-2025 (15:30)**

NOTE:- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, **Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in)** prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with **IREPS**. In case they are not registered with **IREPS**, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tender.

Principal Chief Material Manager/Con/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
"Serving Customers with a smile"

Ban on PoP idols: KSPCB puts onus on local administration

'Board's function undercut by vacancies of up to 70%'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Coming under fire for its failure to enforce the ban on use of plaster of paris (PoP) in making Ganesha idols, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on Thursday put the onus on the local administration and authorities.

Following an order by the National Green Tribunal in May 2013, the KSPCB issued a circular in 2016 to ban PoP idols and the accompanying polluting colours, both of which are detrimental to the water bodies. The ban got an edge after the High Court of Karnataka upheld it in 2019. In September 2023, the government issued an order for effective implementation of the ban.

However, idols made of banned materials have been on sale at several places in the city, including Sheshadripuram, Lalbagh and other areas, for over a month. PoP idols of 3 to 6 feet height have been placed on the side of the main roads for at least two weeks without any action against.

Except for last year's seizure against a warehouse storing 11,000 PoP idols and the consequent action, the KSPCB did not have details of any action taken against those violating the ban.

Asked about the lack of action despite brazen flouting of rules, KSPCB Chairman P M Narendraswamy said they have issued a circular to the local administration, including the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, the police and others but no action has been taken.

"We have also filed a petition before the High Court of Karnataka to highlight the role of the local administration in enforcing the ban," Narendraswamy said, adding that the board's functioning was undercut by vacancies of up to 70%.

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said enforcing the ban will take time. "In Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada, more than 90% of the people had gone for clay idols. It's possible in other districts if the local administrations respond to our call," he said.

Khandre said despite the ban on single use plastic, streets were littered with products made with the same material.

"Plastic doesn't decompose and releases harmful chemicals during incineration. There is a need for more awareness among the public to shun plastic," he said.

Nomadic SCs oppose govt's internal quota decision

BENGALURU, DHNS

The members of Scheduled Caste nomadic communities stage a protest demanding separate reservation for them, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

The Federation of Scheduled Caste Nomadic Communities has opposed the state government's decision on internal reservation for SCs, where 59 "most backward" communities have been clubbed with the "touchable" Dalit communities.

They staged a protest at Freedom Park in the city on Thursday.

Former Backward Classes Commission chairperson and honorary president of Nomadic Tribes Mahasabha C S Dwarakanath felt the government's move was very "unfair" and stated that he was ready to quit the Congress for the sake of the nomadic tribes. However, he cautioned that the BJP shouldn't be allowed to use the movement for "political mileage."

The government has decided to reduce the five categories (A, B, C, D and E) proposed by the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission on internal reservation and has favoured three categories (A, B, C).

In group C, the government has clubbed the "most backward" communities with Lambani (Banjara), Bhovi, Korma and Koracha communities ('touchable' Dalits).

Since the "touchable" Dalits are found to be the most forward of all Dalit sub-groups, several activists have opposed clubbing these 59 communities.

'Violation of SC's decision'

Activist-journalist Shivasundar slammed the government's decision as a "violation" of the Supreme Court's landmark decision on August 1, 2024, which had mandated that more backward communities should be bracketed separately. Shivasundar felt that the idea that the most backward communities should get first priority has been compromised.

Former social welfare minister H Anjaneya, a prominent SC (Left)/ Madiga leader met the protesters and said that he would speak to chief minister about their demand.

Later, BJP leaders, including Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Arvind Bellad and Malleshwaram MLA CN Ashwath Narayan met the protesters and assured of their support.

While the Dalit Sangharsha Samiti (DSS) welcomed the government's move, it said that the government must take suitable measures to bring the nomadic and semi-nomadic communities to the mainstream.

Contempt cases against govt significantly down, says minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil on Thursday said in the Legislative Council that the number of contempt cases against the government reduced from 3,957 in 2022 to less than 500 now.

"After we came to power, our major thrust was to clear contempt petitions. I am very happy to say that our team of Advocate General is putting efforts to clear the contempt petitions, and in the last one-and-a-half years, the cases pending are less than 500," Patil said.

He was speaking during the discussion on the Karnataka Conduct of Government Litigation (Amendment) Bill.

"Due to the failure of the state government to implement the verdicts given by various courts promptly, thousands of contempt cases are still pending, and this has caused embarrassment to the government," he said.

Further, he stated that there are instances where vehicles of Tahsildars have been seized due to judicial contempt cases.

"These are not small cases that we can neglect. We must respect the court's orders and follow them," he added.

He said 1,098 contempt cases were filed in 2023, 1,254 in 2024, and 659 so far in 2025.

"Compliance officers must be appointed. A committee will be formed under the leadership of the Chief Secretary to resolve these cases by conducting monthly meetings," the minister informed the House.

Patil said that if court orders are not respected, then it is a failure of law and order. After a detailed discussion, the House cleared the Bill.

BJP govts introduced waste cess on vacant plots: DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP-led governments in the state and at the Centre introduced the policy of levying waste cess on vacant plots, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar reminded the Legislative Council on Thursday.

The Deputy CM, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, said that the areas under the 28 Assembly Constituencies in the city had been divided into 33 segments.

"Tenders have been invited for waste disposal across Bengaluru," said Shivakumar, adding that four sites had been identified for setting up waste-to-energy plants for generation of gas and electricity.

Shivakumar, responding to questions raised by BJP MLCs D S Arun and S Keshava Prasada, cited the rules laid out by the Centre under the Solid Waste Management Framework of 2016.

He further added that the BJP government in Karnataka had, in 2020, adopted the Centre's policy for levying a cess on waste collection on vacant plots.

He admitted that a green curtain had been mounted alongside Palace Road during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Bengaluru, since garbage had been dumped on a vacant site on the road. However, Shivakumar was quick to add that the government was drafting a new law to ensure vacant plots were kept clean.

As many as 35,000 private citizens are disposing of their waste without any assistance from the government, said Shivakumar. Those offending rules concerning the safe disposal of construction debris would have cases filed against them by the police, said Shivakumar, adding that tenders had been floated for installation of CCTV cameras to ensure compliance to the guidelines.

BBMP ward limitation will be over by Nov 1, Council told

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the Bengaluru Development Minister, on Thursday informed the Legislative Council that preparations for the much-delayed elections to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) were under way, and expressed confidence of the delimitation process for the wards being completed by November 1.

"A dedicated team headed by the BBMP Commissioner has been tasked with the responsibility of carrying out the delimitation process. Once the process is finished, a formal notification on the new ward structure will be issued," said Shivakumar, while replying to a query by JD(S) MLC T N Javarayi Gowda during Question Hour.

He assured the members who were pressing for holding elections to the BBMP at the earliest that their suggestions would be considered and accepted.

"The elections to the BBMP will be held in accordance with the norms of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, the provisions of which came into effect on May 15, 2025. The area under BBMP's jurisdiction has formally been brought under the ambit of Greater Bengaluru Authority, which has 5 new municipal corporations under its umbrella constituted on July 19, 2025," Shivakumar said and added that the state government had offered the public a one-month window that ended on August 18 to submit their objections.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over North Interior and at most places over Coastal Karnataka and South Interior Karnataka

Forecast Aug 22: Rainfall to occur at many places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	23.7	20.2	8.8
Bidar	27.2	20.6	00
Vijayapura	26.5	21	0.8
Dharwad	24.8	19.5	3.8
Haveri	25	20.2	07
Kalaburagi	28.2	21.3	02
Raichur	29.6	21	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	28.9	22	32.3
Karwar	29.2	24	23.2
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.1	22.5	6.1

INTERIOR SOH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	37
Bengaluru	26.6	19	TR
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	30.1	17.8	13
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	25.9	20.5	2.8
Davangere	NA	NA	NA
Hassan	25.2	19.1	0.5
Mysuru	29	18	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	28.1	18.5	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	36.2	25.9	0.4
Kolkata	29.6	25.4	32
Mumbai	27.9	24.9	25
Chennai	36.4	27.2	00
Pune	28.2	21.8	06
Hyderabad	32.2	23.2	00
Th'puram	32.2	23.2	00

Government of India | INDIAN RAILWAYS | NHAI National Highways Authority of India

BIKOSHITO BANGLA
BIKOSHITO BHARAT

Gift of Connectivity Projects of Worth around ₹5,200 Crore to the People of West Bengal

Inauguration of
Sealdah – Esplanade Section (Green Line)
Beleghata – Hemanta Mukhopadhyay Section (Orange Line)
Noapara – Jai Hind Bimanbandar Section (Yellow Line)
&
Subway at Howrah Metro Station

Flagging Off of Metro Service
Sealdah – Esplanade (Green Line)
Beleghata – Hemanta Mukhopadhyay (Orange Line)
Noapara – Jai Hind Bimanbandar (Yellow Line)

Foundation Stone Laying for
Six Lane Elevated Kona Expressway, NH-12
by
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

SALIENT FEATURES & BENEFITS

Metro Projects

Green Line (Sealdah–Esplanade)
Length: 3 km | Cost: ₹1180 crore approx
- Final link from Howrah Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V
- Metro slashes travel time to Howrah & Sealdah — down from 60 mins to just 11mins
- Major relief for students, professionals in BBD Bagh, Esplanade & Salt Lake–New Town

Yellow Line (Noapara–Jai Hind Bimanbandar)
Length: 7 km | Cost: More than ₹1850 crore
- Kolkata Airport now directly linked to metro network
- Travel time to airport reduced from 1 hour to 30 minutes
- Interchange at Dum Dum Cantonment enables easy city–suburb access

Orange Line (Beleghata–Hemanta Mukhopadhyay)
Length: 4 km | Cost: ₹875 crore
- Extends existing line from New Garia to Beleghata
- Beleghata to Kavi Subhash commute cut to just 23 minutes
- Benefits residents of Kolkata, North & South 24 Parganas

New Subway at Howrah Station
Cost: More than ₹50 crore
- Seamless interchange between metro and Eastern/South-Eastern Railways
- Saves time and improves travel convenience

World-Class Stations & Amenities
- New stations: VIP Bazaar, Ritwik Ghatak, Barun Sengupta, Beleghata, Dum Dum Cantonment, Jessore Road, Jai Hind Bimanbandar
- Facilities include lifts, escalators, drinking water, modern toilets & security systems

Six Lane Elevated Kona Expressway (NH-12, Length-7KM, Cost : More than 1200 Cr)
- Reduces traffic congestion and vehicle emissions, improving air quality.
- Boost tourism prospects by enhancing access to major tourist destinations like Diamond Harbour, Kakdwip, and Bakkhali.
- Connects NH-16, NH-19, NH-116, NH-2E, and NH-34, offering smoother regional travel.

In the August Presence of

Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose — Governor, West Bengal
Mamata Banerjee — Chief Minister, West Bengal
Ashwini Vaishnaw — Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology
Shantanu Thakur — Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways
Ravneet Singh — Union Minister of State for Railways & Food Processing Industries
Dr. Sukanta Majumdar — Union Minister of State for Education & Development of North Eastern Region
Suvendu Adhikari — Leader of the Opposition, West Bengal Legislative Assembly
Prof. Sougata Ray — Member of Parliament
Samik Bhattacharya — Member of Parliament

Date: 22 August, 2025 | Place: Dum Dum, Kolkata, West Bengal | Time: 4:30 PM

DD NEWS Watch the programme Live on DD News

INDIAN RAILWAYS
www.indianrailways.gov.in

Follow us on /RailMinIndia

5 of a family from K'buragi village found dead in Hyderabad

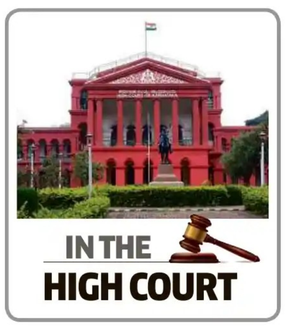
KALABURAGI, DHNS: Five members of a family, including a two-year-old boy from Ranjol village of Sedam taluk, were found dead at their residence under Miyapur police station limits in Hyderabad on Thursday. The local police have suspected it to be a case of suicide.

Sedam police officials enquired with the neighbours and relatives of the family at Ranjol. The police stated that the family was not facing any problems. The deceased are Laxmappa Uppar (55), his wife Venkatamma Uppar (48), daughter Kavita(24), son-in-law Anil (32) and grandson Appu(2). They were residing in the Maqtha area in Hyderabad.

They had left their village 4-5 years ago to work as construction labourers in Hyderabad. The bodies of Laxmappa and his wife will be brought to the village for the last rites, CPI Mahadevappa Diddimani said.

HC asks DGP to look into 'identically worded' reports on parole pleas

'Provide training to cops in Prison Manual if necessary'



BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has asked the state Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) to look into the reports on parole applications that are 'identically worded' and without any application of mind.

The court has also asked the police chief to provide training, if necessary, to all the concerned officers as regards Chapter XXXIV of the Karnataka Prison Manual.

"The grant of parole is a valuable right of a convict, which would also be a right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and as such, it would be required for the concerned authorities to apply their mind in a proper manner and pass a reasoned order on a case-to-case basis, rather than reproducing the same grounds in all the reports which are submitted," the court said while allowing the petition filed by the ailing mother of a convict.

The petitioner Chotti Bee, a resident of Basavakalyan in Bidar district, had moved the high court seeking release of her son Saddam on parole for 90 days. Saddam was convicted in a murder case and had been in prison for eight years as of March 2024. Though the prison authorities verified the application and recommended for his release on parole, it was not acted upon in view of a police report.

The government advocate stated that Saddam's appeal challenging his conviction and application for the suspension of sentence/bail is pending. The parole was not granted since orders in the application are yet to be passed as also on the ground of the police report.

After perusing the material, the court noted that an application seeking suspension of sentence stands on a different footing and a different ground than an application for parole. "..in the event of an application for suspension/bail is allowed, the convict/prisoner would be released during the pendency of the consideration of the appeal, whereas an application for parole is for a limited period, which is required to be considered in terms of Chapter XXXIV of the Karnataka Prison Manual," the court said.

The court also said that it is only on account of the mechanical police report that parole has been denied. The court ordered release of Saddam on a 60-day parole, with directions to mark his attendance once a week in the jurisdictional police station throughout the parole period.

JUSTICE SURAJ GOVINDARAJ
K'taka HC judge

"Gaols (jails) are overcrowded by undertrial prisoners as well as convicts. One of the objectives of punishment is reformation; such reformation cannot be achieved if the convict is distanced from society. On release, the convict would also have to be integrated into society. It is for this reason that there is a requirement to apply the mind while considering an application for parole as per the well-laid-down principles in Chapter XXXIV of Sections 635, 636, 637, 638 and 644 of the Karnataka Prison Manual.

The court has also reserved liberty to seek extension of parole period.

Fire Force (Amendment) Bill passed in Council after heated debate

Lawmakers question govt's decision to levy 1% fire cess

BENGALURU, DHNS

After a long and heated debate on the Fire Force (Amendment) Bill introduced in the Legislative Council by Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, the legislation was finally passed by the Upper House of the state legislature. Lawmakers, including those from the Congress, used the occasion to voice their disappointment with the lack of efficiency in the Fire and Emergency Services Department.

Congress MLC Ivan D'Souza, wading into the debate soon after the bill was tabled, pointed out that five of the six fire tender vehicles in Mangaluru were out of service. "The Fire and Emergency Services Department's response during the recent flood and landslides in Mangaluru left much to be desired," he said.

Echoing similar concerns, BJP MLC D S Arun opined that fire tender vehicles stood parked at stations mostly for their aesthetic appeal. "They are of no use," he rued.

Fellow BJP MLC Naveen K S, meanwhile, urged Parameshwara to get a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) for the Vidhana Soudha from the Fire Department on priority.

The amendment introduced by the government proposes to levy a fire cess, which many lawmakers objected to, in view of the many taxes that the public was already paying.

However, Parameshwara rejected accusations levelled against the lack of efficiency in the Fire and Emergency Services Department. "I don't accept your statements. Only recently, when a fire broke out at Nagrathpete in Bengaluru, the Fire and Emergency Services personnel worked for 15 hours risking their lives to put out the flames," the Home Minister said.

The Union Government's order mandates disposing off fire tender vehicles that are over 15 years old, regardless of their condition. "We appealed to the Centre seeking exemption for vehicles that were in good condition, but we did not receive a positive response," rued Parameshwara.

Pointing out that fire tender vehicles could not be bought as easily as other automobiles, Parameshwara added, "These vehicles have to undergo many alterations. New vehicles we have ordered will be dispatched to all locations soon. We have also decided to set up a fire station in every taluk headquarters."

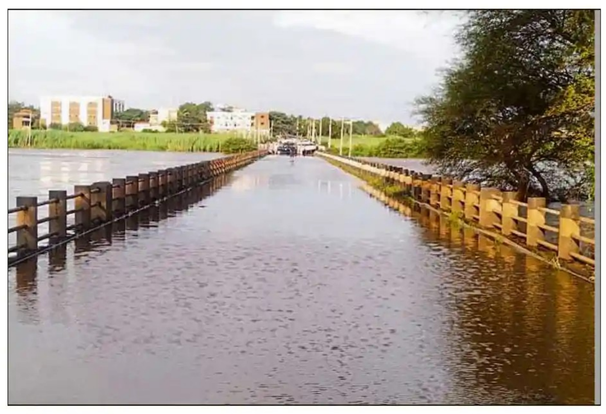
On the demand from members to drop the provision levying a 1% fire cess, Parameshwara said, "There is no question of increasing the tax burden on citizens. We have introduced this provision only after the Indian Audit and Accounts Department raised an objection."

Gangavathi man feared drowned in Tungabhadra canal

GANGAVATHI (KOPPAL DISTRICT), DHNS: A 36-year-old man is feared to have been swept away in the Tungabhadra Left Bank canal, after he reportedly fell into it under the influence of alcohol, near Gangammanagudi in the taluk on Thursday.

Rajkiran Inglahalli (36), the owner of Wisdom English Medium School in Gangavathi, slipped into the swollen canal and was feared drowned.

Sources said he was upset over some personal issues and had been drinking alcohol excessively.



The swollen Ghataprabha river floods a bridge between Mudhol and Yadwad near Mudhol on Thursday ,because of which the vehicular traffic between Bagalkot and Belagavi districts is affected. DH PHOTOS

The Hole Basaveshwara Temple near Bennur in Kampli taluk is completely submerged following heavy discharges from Tungabhadra reservoir. The dam has been releasing over 1 lakh cusec following copious inflows in the last few days.

No respite for Krishna basin districts from floods

As many as 55 bridges submerged in Belagavi, Bagalkot dists

BENGALURU, DHNS

Most parts of the state did not record any rain on Thursday, but the Krishna basin districts continued to reel under floods triggered by unrelenting rain in Maharashtra and massive outflows from the dams there.

Belagavi district continued to bear the brunt of swollen Krishna river and its tributaries - Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Doodhganga, Hiranyakeshi and Markandeya. As many as 55 road bridges in the basin districts have submerged with Belagavi district alone accounting for 43.

As much as 2,26,707 cusec of water is flowing in Krishna river near Kallol-Yadur bridge in Chikkodi taluk. The Rajapur Barrage in Maharashtra alone is adding 1,85,875 cusec of water to Krishna river.

With Examba-Danwad and Sadalga-Bhoargaon bridges going under the floodwaters of Doodhganga, the road link between Karnataka and Maharashtra has been cut-off. The Masaguppi bridge in Mudalgi taluk across Ghataprabha river has been flooded.

At least half a dozen temples, including Jadisiddeshwar Mutt of Sunadholi, have been flooded in Belagavi district.

The road link between Mudhol in Bagalkot district and Yadwad in Belagavi district has been cut off after the bridge near Mudhol has gone under Ghataprabha waters. The gruel centres have been opened at Nandgaon and Mirji in Mudhol taluk to provide shelter and food for the affected.

In Jamkhandi taluk, with Krishna river in spate, flood fears loomed large over more than a dozen villages. Jambagi Cross-Takkod, Jamkhandi-Kadakol, Tubachi-Jhanjarwad, Hirepadasalgi-Naganur roads have been flooded.

The situation is no different in Bhima basin. Massive outflows from Ujani dam in Maharashtra has unleashed flood fury in Kalaburagi district. The Yellamma Devi Temple in Mannur village of Afzalpur taluk has completely submerged in Bhima floods. The river has meandered its way through the agricultural fields damaging crops including tur, cotton, sugarcane and black gram.

Meanwhile, the outflow from Tungabhadra reservoir was reduced on Thursday, but the flood situation downstream continued unabated. The Holebasaveshwara Temple near Kampli is submerged completely.

The authorities have issued flood alert to the villagers of island-villages in Krishna river, including Sheelahalli, Kadadaragaddi and Hanchinal, as more than 2.60 lakh cusec is being discharged into Krishna river from Narayanpur reservoir. The outflows are expected to go further up in the next few days.

Assembly clears Bill defeated in Council

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** A day after it was defeated in the Legislative Council, the Karnataka Sahakari Souharda (Amendment) Bill was passed in the Assembly on Thursday. The Bill mandates Souharda cooperative institutions to set aside 20% of their total deposits at the end of every quarter as a statutory liquid reserve. The Bill also requires heads of the cooperative institutions to disclose their assets and mandates audits.

Sorake suspects Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat's role in Dharmasthala case

Vinay Kumar Sorake

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: Suspecting the involvement of Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat, a prominent RSS leader, in Dharmasthala case, former minister and Congress leader Vinay Kumar Sorake said that Bhat 'instigated' Hindutva leader Mahesh Shetty Thimarody to raise his voice against the alleged mass burials in temple town.

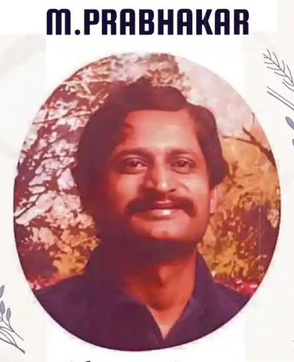
Speaking to reporters here, Sorake, also the KPCC Publicity Committee president, said, "Prabhakar Bhat is pinching the baby and then rocking the cradle. Bhat who is known for stoking communal tensions with his inflammatory speeches in the coastal area, was conspicuous by his absence at the Dharmasthala Chalo rally organised by BJP last week. Why did Prabhakar Bhat skip the BJP legislators protest rally?, Sorake sought to know.

"The Congress party, the government and the CM have no role in the Dharmasthala case. The government constituted the SIT following the court direction. Even Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade has welcomed the decision (to constitute SIT). The investigation is underway and the truth will come out," he said.

He equated Yatnal to Muthalik saying that the Bijapur City MLA is trying to become one more Muthalik when it comes to disturbing communal harmony, he said and added that the state government will not let their experiments be successful.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

In Loving Memory
M.PRABHAKAR



February 16th 1943-August 21st 2025

Join us at home for offering prayer .
303, 3rd cross, 80 feet road, RMV 2ND STAGE, 2ND BLOCK, OPP STUDIO RED DOOR, BANGALORE - 560094

Funeral service leaves home at 12 pm
August 22, 2025

Chira Shanti Dham - Hebbal Electric Crematorium at 2pm

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved.
M .PRABHAKAR who left for his heavenly abode on 21 August,2025

Mourned by: Wife, Daughter, Grandson, Sisters and Family

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

REAL ESTATE SELLING

House

Sanjaynagar

NAGASHETTIHALLI-SANJAYNAGAR HOUSE for Sale 30X45 South Face G +1 Brokers excuse 9880886377

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

General

REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY Communication Skilled MANAGERS, LADY EXECUTIVES. MARKETING EXECUTIVES. Good Salary. Walkin V&V GROUP, Behind IIMB, Bannerghatta Road: 99000-54462

REPUTED DISGNOSTICS at Tumkur Road required Marketing person, Receptionist and other Diagnostics staffs. Interested candidates call 63649-35735

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I RASHIKA GOURAV GULECHHA Alias RASHIKA R/a, #.88, Flat no. 202, HB Samaja Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore- 560004 I Hereby Declare that both the Name Belongs to Me Only vide Affidavit Dated 20/08/2025 before Notary Mamatha N.K Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

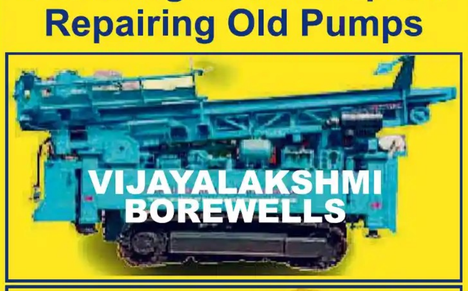
I, LAKSHMI RANADE, residing at No.5/3rd A Cross, Sri M.V. Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-560016, have changed my name to LAKSHMI DILIP RANADE vide affidavit dated 20.08.2025 before notary G Dayananda, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called LAKSHMI DILIP RANADE only

I, VIJAY Kumar, son of Damodhar Pattadakall, aged 46years, #5, Deepak Reddy Layout, Raghavana Palya, Jambusavari Dinne, JPNagar 8th Phase, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru- 560076 have changed my name from Vijayakumar son of Damodar Pattadakallu to Vijay Kumar, son of Damodhar Pattadakall vide Affidavit dated 18-08-2025 sworn before the Notary Shri.Aravind Patil G.G., Bengaluru.

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru

CONNECT

BOREWELL DRILLING
(SENSOR & ROBO) and
Installing New Pumps & Repairing Old Pumps



VIJAYALAKSHMI BOREWELLS
64/35, 7th Main Road, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 011
Call : 9448171416

Dharmasthala: Sasikanth Senthil terms charges against him 'baseless'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress MP Sasikanth Senthil, a former Karnataka cadre IAS officer, on Thursday dismissed the allegations that he was behind a conspiracy to defame the religious town of Dharmasthala as "baseless".

Senthil also warned Karnataka BJP MLA Gali Janardhana Reddy that he would be compelled to take legal action if he continues to defame him.

Senthil, who heads Congress National War Room and is considered a key poll strategist for the party during the Karnataka Legislative Assembly election in 2023, said he was "completely unaware" of all the developments in Dharmasthala and linking him to a criminal investigation is "actually an act of defamation".

Reddy alleged that Senthil was the "director and scriptwriter" of the allegations of mass murders in Dharmasthala and claimed that a man linked to the case is close to him.

SASIKANTH SENTHIL
Congress MP

"I have no links with the developments in Dharmasthala and the ongoing investigations. I could have understood if there was an iota of a link. But I left the state (Karnataka) years ago, and I am no longer involved with the governance of Karnataka.

The Tiruvallur MP told *DH* that he thinks that Reddy may be making the allegations "just for some publicity" and may be he has an axe to grind as he was involved with the investigations into mining irregularities in Ballari as an assistant commissioner when he was posted there.

'No link'

"I have no links with the developments in Dharmasthala and the ongoing investigations. I could have understood if there was an iota of a link. But I left the state (Karnataka) years ago, and I am no longer involved with the governance of Karnataka," he said.

"Linking me just because I was posted in Dakshina Kannada district as deputy commissioner earlier is wrong. I resigned from service. Opposing the BJP doesn't mean that you can level allegations," he said.

'Legal recourse'

"If he continues to do this, I think I will have to take legal recourse against him. I also request the media to do due diligence before giving credence to such allegations," he said.

Activist files plaint against Thimarody, YouTuber

MANGALURU, DHNS: Mysuru-based social activist Snehamayi Krishna has filed an online complaint at the Dharmasthala police station demanding the immediate arrest of YouTuber Sameer M D, complainant Sujatha Bhat, activists Girish Mattanavar, and Mahesh Shetty Thimarody for "creating confusion in the minds of devotees"

Krishna, in his online complaint filed on Thursday, accused Sujatha Bhat of filing a fictitious missing complaint of her daughter Ananya Bhat in 2003 and triggering feelings of apprehension in the minds of many devotees. Krishna also said that YouTuber Sameer's AI video about Ananya Bhat, along with quotes from Mattannavar and Thimarody, triggers apprehensions among the devotees.

Meanwhile, a local court in Mangaluru granted anticipatory bail to Sameer. A team from Dharmasthala police station had reached Bannerghatta to arrest the YouTuber.

'Draconian' Crowd Control Bill goes to House committee

No clarity on commercial and non-commercial events, says BJP

BENGALURU, DHNS

IN THE ASSEMBLY

The Congress government's Crowd Control Bill, in the wake of the June 4 Chinnaswamy stampede, was referred to a House committee on Thursday after Opposition lawmakers expressed worries that the proposed law might curtail protests and impact traditional cultural events.

The Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and place of Gathering) Bill, with stringent penal provisions, was triggered by the June 4 stampede that killed 11 people.

Piloting the Bill, Home Minister G Parameshwara told the Assembly that the Chinnaswamy stadium was a "wake-up call" and the government wants to hold event organisers responsible.

"Of late, we see crowded events taking place without any legal framework," Parameshwara said. "During the winter session of the legislature at Belagavi, farmers were lathi-charged. What created such circumstances? Were there regulations? Was permission sought? There are several such questions. To protest is a right. But it shouldn't inconvenience public life," he said.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said the Bill should not become "a weapon" for the police. "All political parties hold events. If something goes wrong, then what'll be the fate of that party? This must be thought about," he said.

Bijapur City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and Karkala's V Sunil Kumar said the Bill will kill protests.

"This is more draconian than a British-era law," Yatnal said. "One community needs no permission to shout five times a day. When it comes to using a sound system during a Ganesha festival, there's a problem. This Bill is intended to target events of one religion and curtail protests," he said.

Kumar pointed out that protests are planned overnight. "Having to apply for permission 10 days before effectively means that protests are killed in local police stations," he said. "What about fairs and festivals? How can a temple provide a Rs 1-crore bond? And, who will be held accountable if something goes wrong in a government event?"

JD(S) MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur said North Karnataka's Mylapur and Abbetumkur fair attracts huge crowds. "This law replaces the British with the police," he said. BJP's Umanath Kotian asked the government if a temple will be held accountable if "miscreants deliberately create problems" during a religious event.

Parameshwara assuaged concerns by announcing that organisers will have to apply for permission five days before an event instead of 10. "We'll also halve the indemnity bond amount for religious events," he said, adding that religious events, mass marriages and government events will be exempted.

The Opposition was not convinced. "You must distinguish between commercial and non-commercial events," Ashoka said.

Finally, Parameshwara gave in to the Opposition's demand and agreed to send the Bill to a House committee.

The Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and place of Gathering) Bill, with stringent penal provisions, was triggered by the June 4 stampede that killed 11 people in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

What does the Bill propose?

Organiser to apply for permission **10 days before** an event.

For an event with a crowd **less than 7,000,** permission needed from local police station.

More than 7,000, but less than 50,000, DySP (or ACP in Bengaluru).

More than 50,000, the SP or commissioner.

Organisers to execute an indemnity bond of Rs 1 crore.

Punishment for organizing unpermitted events - **3-7 years' jail, Rs 1 crore fine.**

Punishment for civil disturbance - Up to **3 years' jail, Rs 50,000 fine.**

Punishment for crowd disaster - **3-7 years' jail** for injuries and up to life imprisonment for deaths.

Organisers liable to compensate for loss of human life and property.

Family functions or events, such as marriage, which are performed or held within private premises (leased, hired or contracted) are exempted.

Stampede: HM admits to 'lapses' but says organisers 'more' responsible

Terms June 4 'Black Day' in state's sports history

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara speaks in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Thursday admitted to "procedural, police, officials' and government's lapse" on June 4, when 11 people died in a tragic stampede at Chinnaswamy stadium, but maintained that the organisers were more "responsible."

"Yes, there was felicitation at two places: Vidhana Soudha's grand steps and the Chinnaswamy Stadium. Procedural lapses, police lapses, officials' lapses, government lapses were all there. The government only gives permission but the organisers are more responsible," Parameshwara told the Legislative Assembly during the government's reply.

Terming June 4 a "Black Day" in Karnataka's sports history, Parameshwara said that FIRs had been filed against RCB, KSCA and DNA. "In 2015, there was the Godavari stampede in Andhra Pradesh, where 29 people died, of which 23 were women. In 2016, four people died at Thiruvannamalai, 121 died at Hathras, Uttar Pradesh in 2024. And 39 people died in the Mahakumbh at Prayag Raj (Allahabad)."

Parameshwara also explained that though RCB was a private franchise and not the state's official team, people feel happy as it has Bengaluru's name in it.

"When Gujarat (Gujarat Titans) won the IPL, they also celebrated. The PM's photo is there. When the Kolkata team owned by Shahrukh Khan won, the West Bengal CM felicitated them and participated in the parade. Tamil Nadu's CM Stalin also held the cup when Chennai Super Kings won the trophy."

Parameshwara explained that each of the deceased person's family was provided a compensation of Rs 25 lakh. However, the BJP was not satisfied with his reply.

"How did you conduct the programme after the deaths? CM went to eat Dosa. That's why I called this a government without concern. You should've accepted that it's your mistake," Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stated that he would give his clarification on the issue to the Assembly on Friday.

Groundwater levels entirely depleted in 45 taluks: Minister

BENGALURU DHNS: Minister for Minor Irrigation N S Boseraju informed the Legislative Council on Thursday that groundwater had been entirely depleted in 45 taluks in the state.

Boseraju, who piloted the Karnataka Groundwater (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) (Amendment) Act, 2025, said that the state had dropped two places, from seventh to ninth on the national groundwater index. In addition to the 45 taluks that have reported 100% groundwater depletion, the condition is critical in 92 taluks, and semi-critical in 33 more, said the minister.

"Measures are being taken in keeping with the Centre's directions to increase groundwater levels in the state," said Boseraju. The legislation was passed by the Legislative Council after 15 MLCs from the ruling and opposition parties weighed in with their opinions on the bill.

CM defends govt's Rs 10-cr aid to Wayanad amid BJP attack

Oppn calls it squandering of Kannadigas' tax money

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government's decision to spend Rs 10 crore on rehabilitating 100 families, affected by landslides in Kerala's Wayanad district, represented in the Lok Sabha by Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi, drew criticism from the Opposition BJP in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, which termed it a 'squandering' of Kannadigas' tax money.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced in August last year that Karnataka would construct 100 houses for the landslide victims of Wayanad. Accordingly, the government has included Rs 10 crore in the supplementary estimates tabled in the House.

Siddaramaiah defended the move when Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka raised the issue. "You have given Rs 10 lakh per house. For Kannadigas in our state, you give Rs 95,000 per house damaged in natural disasters," Ashoka charged.

"I had announced this earlier. It's not wrong. This is a good gesture in a federal system. We must have humanity. When there was flooding in 2019, several corporate companies donated funds to manage the situation," Siddaramaiah said.

Karnataka has also spent Rs 56.64 lakh to meet the expenditure incurred in rescuing people from the state who were stranded during natural disasters in Uttarakhand.

"An additional amount of Rs 1,056.64 lakh (or Rs 10.56 crore) is being provided as additional share of the state under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)," the government said in the supplementary estimates, which contains additional expenditures incurred over and above the budget provisions.

State BJP president B Y Vijayendra, in a post on X, said, "CM Siddaramaiah, was it not you who campaigned in Delhi shouting 'My Tax, My Right', insisting Karnataka's money must not leave the state? Yet today, you divert Rs 10 crore of Kannadigas' tax money to Wayanad in Kerala, just because it's Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's constituency."

The first instalment of the supplementary estimates, aggregating to Rs 3,352.57 crore of additional expenditure, has been incurred in the current fiscal. It includes Rs 10 crore spent on the government's Sadhana Samavesha in Vijayanagar district.

"Where will you get Rs 3,352 crore? Will you levy new taxes? Will you borrow loans?" BJP's V Sunil Kumar asked.

The CM said, "We will also do re-appropriation and borrow additional loans, if required."

Give Kannada copies of Bills: BJP MLC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP MLC N Ravi Kumar on Thursday said, "Not all members of the House have studied in the English medium."

He stated this while insisting on providing Kannada copies of the Bills tabled before the Legislative Council.

"Only English copies of the bills have been provided, not everyone here has studied in the English medium," he added.

"Even after asking for Kannada copies of the bills several times, the secretariat staff said they were not available. It is difficult for us to refer and ask for clarification during the presentation of the bills," Kumar said.

Replying to him, Chairman of the House Basavaraj Horatti instructed the staff to search and provide Kannada copies of the bills. But, when the staff failed to find, he said, "Next time we will take care of such issues and ensure this does not happen again," Horatti assured Kumar.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME
STATION HQ (ECHS CELL) BELAGAVI
Phone No.: 94838 89065, Email: echsstationhqbelgaum@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites applications to engage following **Medical, Para Medical** and **Non-Medical Staff** on contractual basis in **ECHS Polyclinic Belagavi, Bijapur, Dharwad, Gulbarga and Bagalkot** for a period of **One Year renewal for additional period of one year / till attaining the maximum age, subject to performance of candidates / other conditions** according to the criteria as mentioned against each post :

Appointment	Minimum Qualification	Work Experience	No. of Vacancies					Fixed Remuneration*
			Belagavi	Bijapur	Dharwad	Gulbarga	Bagalkot	
Officer-in-Charge (OIC)	Graduate	Min. 5 years work experience in Health Care institutions or Managerial Positions Retired Commissioned Officer's from Defence Services (Army, Air Force and Navy)	-	-	01	-	-	75,000/-
Gynecologist	MD/MS in Specialty concerned	Min 05 yrs in the specialty after PG Merit in MBBS Merit in PG	01	-	-	-	-	1,00,000/-
Medical Specialist	MD / MS in specialty concerned / DNB	Min 05 yrs in the subject concerned other Post Graduation	01	-	-	-	01	1,00,000/-
Radiologist	MD / MS in specialty concerned	At least 3 years experience in concerned specialty after obtaining the PG Degree or 5 years experience after obtaining PG Diploma. DMC Registration is a must	01	-	-	-	-	1,00,000/-
Medical Officer	MBBS	Min 05 Yrs after internship preferable additional qualification in Medicine / Surgery	06	01	02	01	02	75,000/-
Dental Officer	BDS	Min 05 Years work experience	-	-	01	-	-	75,000/-
Pharmacist	B.Pharmacy or Diploma in Pharmacy	Min 03 Years work experience	-	-	01	01	-	28,100/-
Nursing Assistant	GNM Diploma/Class-1 NA Course (Armed Forces)	Min 05 Years work experience	01	01	-	-	-	28,100/-
Dental Hygienist	Dip in Dental Hygienist/Tech Class-1 DH/DORA Course (Armed Forces)	Min 03 Years work experience	01	01	01	01	-	28,100/-
Physiotherapist	Diploma/Class-1 Physiotherapist Course in Armed Forces	Min 05 Years work experience	01	-	-	-	01	28,100/-
Lab Tech	DMLT / Class-1 Lab Tech (Armed Forces)	Min 03 Years work experience	-	01	-	01	-	28,100/-
Clerk	Graduate / Class-I Clerical Trade (Armed Forces)	Min 05 Years work experience	-	-	-	01	-	22,500/-
Driver	8th Class Pass Class-I Dvr (MT) (Armed Forces) Possess civil driving license	Min 05 Years work experience	-	-	-	01	-	19,700/-
Housekeeper	Literate (Safai Trade Armed Forces)	Min 05 Years work experience	-	-	-	01	-	16,800/-
Female Attendant	Literate	Min 05 Years work experience	01	-	-	-	-	16,800/-
Chowkidar	Literate (8th Pass) or GD Trade for Armed Forces	-	-	01	01	-	-	16,800/-

*Subject to enhanced revision.

2. **For Terms & Conditions, Application Form & Remuneration:** Kindly see our website **www.echs.gov.in** For additional details, please contact Station Headquarters (ECHS Cell) Belagavi at Mob. No. **94838 89065**. Also, approach concerned ECHS Polyclinic for details. **Preference will be given to the Ex-Servicemen.**
3. **Last date of receipt of application as per format given at our website:** Application as per requisite format alongwith self attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Educational Qualifications and Work Experience will be submitted BY POST / BY HAND to **OIC ECHS Cell, Station Headquarters (ECHS Cell), Belagavi - 590 009** by **13 Sep 2025 in duplicate** by post. Any application received after **13 Sep 2025** will not be accepted. **No applications will be received through E-mail.**
4. **Interview Date, Timing and Venue:** Candidates must reach **Station Headquarters Belagavi at 0830 hrs on undermentioned dates.** Interview to be held between **0900 hrs to 1400 hrs**.

S.No.	Post	Date of Interview
(a)	**Medical Staff.** Officer-in-Charge(OIC), Gynecologist, Medical Specialist, Radiologist, Medical Officer and Dental Officer	30 Sep 2025 and 01 Oct 2025
(b)	**Para Medical.** Pharmacist, Nursing Assistant/Dental Hygienist, Physiotherapist, Lab Technician	03 Oct 2025 and 04 Oct 2025
(c)	**Non Medical.** Clerk, Driver, Housekeeper, Female Attendant and Chowkidar	06 Oct 2025

5. Candidates must bring all the original certificates and mark sheets of 10th/Matric, 10+2 & Graduation / Post Graduation / Diploma / Course, Work Experience and Discharge Book, PPO, Service Records and 02 x PP size Colour Photographs at the time of interview. **No TA/DA is admissible.**
Note: Selected candidates for key appointments will have to **undergo 10 days** of overlap training period **(without pay)** for the purpose of **On the Job Training and Handing/Taking Over** at respective ECHS Polyclinics under own arrangements.

SESSION SNIPPETS

Only 18% of KSDC-trained candidates placed, finds CAG

BENGALURU, DHNS: Only 18% of candidates, trained by the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC), secured placements, falling short of the target, according to a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

"The target envisaged by the Skill Mission was found to be unrealistic, as during the period 2017-2023. Only 1,15,822 individuals were trained against the target of five lakh youth per year. Further, only 21,055 candidates (18%) secured placements post-training, falling far short of the mandated 70%," the report said.

The CAG said the Skill Mission could not effectively utilise the available funds during the initial three years, and there was a lapse of funds to the extent of Rs 173.53 crore.

"The release of funds, totalling Rs 341.11 crore without the formulation of a need-based action plan, resulted in an unspent/unutilised balance (Rs 119.89 crore) lying with the agencies. There were instances of diversion of funds (Rs 7.56 crore) and excess release of funds (Rs 12.98 crore)," the audit found.

Dasara air show: CM thanks Rajnath Singh

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has thanked Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for approving an Indian Air Force air show during this year's Dasara celebrations at Mysuru and invited him to attend the event. In a letter to Singh, Siddaramaiah said the air show would add grandeur to the festivities and instil pride among the large number of visitors expected in Mysuru.

He added that Singh's presence would encourage the people of Karnataka and further strengthen their admiration for the Armed Forces.

BJP's 'Dharma Yuddha' protests from today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Accusing the state government of partaking in "a systematic conspiracy" of maligning Dharmasthala, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra on Thursday announced a statewide "Dharma Yuddha – Battle for the Protection of Dharma" protest starting Friday. Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha, Vijayendra said that the BJP would mobilise protests across the state. "The BJP has decided to launch protests in all 224 constituencies. Over the next week, we will organise protests in each of these constituencies, demanding that the state government take action to prevent communal hatred and stop elements that are trying to malign Dharmasthala," he said.

"Despite the investigation being underway, we have seen a malicious campaign on social media aimed at defaming Dharmasthala. Yet, neither the state government nor the police have taken any action to stop it," he said, pointing out that the state's inaction stood in stark contrast to its swift responses in other cases.

MLA lashes out at Speaker

BENGALURU, DHNS: Gurmitkal JD(S) MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur lashed out at Speaker U T Khader for asking him to stick to the point during a discussion on the Crowd Control Bill in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

"You've been doing this to me each time...you keep shutting me up. I'm not speaking about my personal matter. You curtail my right every time I rise to speak," Kandakur, a first-time MLA, bawled. "You're insulting me. You're targeting me," he said as Khader maintained that he just wanted him confined to the Bill. Kandakur had to be pacified by Congress and BJP MLAs.

Illegal mining: Bill to appoint recovery commissioner passed

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed a Bill to appoint an additional chief secretary-level officer as 'recovery commissioner' for "seizure, attachment, forfeiture of properties derived from illegal mining activities" in the state.

Piloting the Karnataka Appointment of Recovery Commissioner for Seizure and Attachment of Property of Illegal Mining and Proceeds of Crime Bill, Law & Parliamentary Affairs H K Patil said existing laws do not prescribe a structure for the functioning of recovery commissioners.

"Between 2006 and 2011-12, the state saw illegal mining. According to reports by Lokayukta and others, huge amounts of public assets were looted. The police just can't go recover assets. They'd have looted assets worth crores. Punishment isn't enough. Lost assets will have to come back to the exchequer," Patil said.

The Assembly also passed the Karnataka Traditional Migratory Shepherds (Welfare Measures and Protection Against Atrocities) Bill.

"There are an estimated 15,000 shepherds. Of them, 5,000 are registered. In three years, there have been 242 cases of atrocities against them. Their sheep get stolen, they get beaten up and so on. They live in their villages only 3-4 months a year," Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh said. Under the Bill, a welfare fund will be established and administered by a board.

The Karnataka Lifts, Escalators and Passenger Conveyors (Amendment) Bill was passed to decentralise the power of approving licences, which is currently vested with the chief inspector of lifts, escalators and passenger conveyors.

The Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, which aimed at addressing "complexities" of land records in Kodagu, was referred to a select committee after Congress lawmakers themselves opposed the proposed legislation.

The Bill wanted to address problems with the Jamma Bane system of land holding in Kodagu.

"The name of the head of a family, even after that person is dead and no longer holds rights, is continuing (in land records). This isn't allowed under revenue laws. We want such land records amended. However, this Bill is against what we want," Virajpet Congress MLA A S Ponnanna said.

"Revenue matters in Coorg are complicated. We agree to a select committee," Patil said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

No.EDN.46/2025/31 Dated Shillong, 20th August, 2025

In continuation of the Public Notice dated 26th March, 2025, regarding matters concerning CMJ University. Meghalaya, this notice provides an important update.

Whereas, the Government of Meghalaya, through the Education Department has issued an Order dated. Shillong, the **31st March, 2014,** for the dissolution of the **CMJ University,** by invoking the powers specified under Section 48 of the CMJ University Act.

Whereas, the Supreme Court, through its judgment dated **13th February, 2025,** has passed a ruling in favor of the State Government of Meghalaya and has upheld its order for the winding up of CMJ University.

Whereas, by a notification dated 20th February 2025, the Government of Meghalaya, through the Education Department (Orders by the Governor), has appointed Shri D. Lyngdoh, Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Education Department, as the Administrator of CMJ University, Meghalaya, and

Whereas, the Administrator has issued a public notice, dated 26/03/2025, for the winding up of CMJ University, thereby commencing the formal process of its dissolution and inviting claims and objections from all concerned stakeholders.

Following the first Public Notice dated 26th March, 2025, a total of 987 queries concerning CMJ University were received, which have been duly responded to and forwarded to the university's Registrar in compliance with the Order Dated April 24, 2025. These queries fell under the categories of Academic Document Requests (including degree verification, certificate procurement, and document submission), PhD-Related Queries (such as thesis evaluation and requests for degree certificates), and Grievances & General Inquiries (covering claims on degree validity and student status inquiries).

Now the administrator of CMJ University informs the public that the last date for receiving queries, grievances, and claims related to **CMJ University is 5th September, 2025.** This decision was made during a meeting held on **28th July, 2025,** in the presence of concerned individuals from the Government and the members of CMJ University Administration, to ensure all outstanding matters can be settled before the final dissolution of the university.

Key information for the public to note:

- All academic activities at CMJ University have been stopped since 15th February, 2025.
- In compliance with the Supreme Court's order 2014, no verification, authentication, or validation of degrees will be carried out. Any degrees issued in/after 2014 shall stand invalid, as the University could not have had any students continuing in view of the stay order of Supreme Court.
- The legal status of the university, which is currently dissolved, will be displayed on the university campus and its website for public information. The university premises will be sealed by the Administrator, with only administrative rooms allowed to function temporarily for the purpose of winding up of the University.

All individuals with pending queries or grievances are urged to submit them to the Administrator, CMJ University before the specified closing date to ensure their claims are addressed

Submission details: queries its should be submitted to the following address:

a) Shri. D. Lyngdoh. Administrator of CMJ University, Joint Secretary to the Govt. Meghalaya, Education Department.

b) cmju.ad.authority@gmail.com (Room No, 222 Education Department, Additional Secretariat Building, Shillong)

c) (Contact No: 0364-22 12268)

Disclaimer:

This public notice is issued in continuation of the public notice dated 26/03/2025 regarding matters concerning CMJ University, Meghalaya.

Sd/- (Shri D. Lyngdoh)
(Administrator of CMJ University, Meghalaya)
(Contact No. 0364-221 226)

MIPR No. 1427
Dt. 21.08.2025

Day after HC questions blanket ban, bike taxis back on roads

Bike taxis, from Page 1

Ride-hailing firms Rapido, Uber and OLA were quick to reintroduce bike taxi services on Thursday.

While Rapido was the first to relaunch it early morning, Uber followed soon after. Ola brought it back later in the day.

Rapido even ran a promotional campaign on the app, advertising bike taxis as an "affordable and quick" option. Both Rapido and Uber provided a promotional discount on the service.

An informed source from the industry said Rapido's decision compelled other companies to resume the service despite the risk of violating the court order.

Reddy slammed the platforms for their "hasty actions". "The court has given us a month to decide if we want to frame a bike taxi policy. Nowhere did it permit bike taxis to ply immediately. The platforms are clearly violating the court order," he told *DH*.

Transport Secretary N V Prasad said legal opinion had been sought, while another high-ranking official declined to say whether a policy would be introduced.

A source in the department said the firms' actions would certainly be brought to the court's notice.

"Nowhere did the court allow services to resume or restrain us from taking coercive action," the source maintained.

Another well-placed source questioned the need for bike taxis in Karnataka, specifically Bengaluru. "We have robust public transportation. Initially, we had allowed e-bike taxis, but the ride aggregator platforms even flouted those rules," he said.

Auto drivers and private transport associations also came forward to protest the return of bike taxis.

Rapido, Uber and OLA did not respond to queries seeking comment.

Drivers overjoyed

Unaware of the legal drama, bike taxi drivers welcomed the return of the service, believing it was a ruling in their favour. "I got to know that bike taxis were back early morning through a WhatsApp group. We were informed that the court has ruled in favour of bike taxis. I was overjoyed and immediately set out on duty. Since bike taxis were banned, I had moved to food delivery apps but earnings were not good. I had to take a loan to pay my children's school fee," a 38-year-old bike taxi driver said.

By Thursday afternoon, he completed five rides.

SC: Are courts powerless if Guvs...

Governor, from Page 1

"This court is the custodian of the Constitution, but there are problems which are not solvable by this court. When such things happen, we have to expect that the constitutional functionaries are responsible and responsive, because they are answerable to the people," he said.

The court, however, said the Governor is not answerable to the people.

To this, Mehta said, "Governor is the most vulnerable office, he can be removed for any reason, if something happens, the system takes care of it in the administrative side."

The court also asked if the state Assembly, elected by a majority, unanimously passed a Bill, and if the Governor does not exercise any option under proviso to Article 200 of the Constitution, it will be making the legislature totally defunct.

"What is the safeguard for the persons who are elected," the bench asked him.

The Solicitor General said in such a case, either the Parliament must amend the Constitution to provide for timelines or the issue must be resolved politically.

The court, however, cannot be a substitute for the role of another constitutional functionary, he added.

Mehta contended that elected people have a lot of experience and they should never be undermined.

"I always say that irrespective of the colour of the political party, an elected person cannot be denounced that he is just an elected person."

The bench said that it has never said anything about elected people.

"I will show who said that. This court has not said it," Mehta clarified.

To this, the CJI said, "I have said that judicial activism has to remain, but it should not turn into judicial terrorism or judicial adventurism."

During the argument, Mehta underscored that every problem in this country may not have solutions in the Supreme Court.

"There are problems in the country where you find solutions in the system," he said.

Mehta said when Articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution do not mention any timeline, the court cannot read into them any such timeline.

There are at least 31 instances where specific timelines have been mentioned in the Constitution because the framers felt that those actions are to be taken time-bound and whenever timelines are not specified, it has to be seen as a conscious omission, he said. The bench, which also comprised Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar, is to resume hearing on August 26.

GoM recommends scrapping of 12%, 28% GST slabs

GST, from Page 1

Choudhary said some states have raised the issue of revenue loss and demanded continuation of compensation. "Everyone made suggestions on the proposals put forth by the Centre. Some states had observations, and the matter has been referred to the GST Council, which will take the final decision," he said.

The GoM is likely to submit its recommendation to the GST Council during its meeting slated in September. Chaired by the Union finance minister and having representation from all states, the Council is the apex body to take decisions on GST-related matters.

According to analysts, the proposed changes are unlikely to have any major impact on the government finances as around 70% of GST collection comes from 18% slab, which is not proposed to be changed.

"The revenue impact of GST cuts may be limited, particularly because reduced prices will also spur the demand," said Pratik Jain, Partner, Price Waterhouse & Co LLP.

Saurabh Agarwal, Tax Partner, EY India, said the proposed changes in GST rates would strengthen India's economy, which is consumption-driven.

"However, for these changes to truly deliver, we must proactively address a few critical areas. The most immediate is the inverted duty structure which may arise on account of movement to lower tax slabs," Agarwal said.

If left unresolved from a supply chain perspective, it could create working capital strain and prevent the benefits of lower rates from reaching consumers, he added.

Mahesh Jaising, Partner and Leader – Indirect Tax, Deloitte India, said: "With rate changes, industry awaits clarity and guidelines on areas of passing on the benefits."

Shukla: First saw India...

Shukla, from Page 1

This would be useful for the Gaganyaan mission and building the modules of Bharatiya Antriksh Station.

How did he manage to sleep, while experiencing 16 sunrises and sunsets a day. Shukla said GMT was followed in the ISS to divide the work and sleep time and there were specific places where one could sleep after closing down the windows.

"But it is difficult to sleep as the view is too beautiful. You want to sit by the window and not sleep. You have to force yourself to sleep," he said, responding to a question from *DH*.

Group Captain Shukla, an Indian Air Force combat pilot who also met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday, said the concept of borders lost its meaning from space as they didn't seem to exist. He also asserted that there were no anxious moments as the strategy was to understand and mitigate the risks.

What did he miss the most in space? "We need more Indian food in space. The taste buds were not the same in space. After returning, I told my wife I would eat anything she made and she said, 'wow finally it took you to go to space to eat my food'," the astronaut quipped.

Cybercrime conviction rate...

Cybercrime, from Page 1

Sample this: If only a copy of the CCTV footage is secured and produced as evidence, and the court, during trial, seeks the raw footage and the original file, which is often overwritten after a few weeks, the case falters.

Vijayashankar Nagarajarao, a Bengaluru-based expert in cyberlaws, highlighted another challenge: the lack of cooperation from intermediaries such as banks, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), social media firms and email service providers in providing logs and other details that act as evidence.

"Most of the reliable evidence gets stuck with intermediaries, who seldom cooperate. Till the time they are held accountable like the other suspects, securing convictions becomes challenging," Nagarajarao told *DH*.

"As an example, if the government takes strict action against Proton Mail and blocks the domain, which is used in many cases to send hoax bomb threats due to its anonymity and no-logs policy, it will send the necessary message. The IT Act provides for stringent measures if the intermediary does not cooperate in preventing the crime and assisting law enforcement."

Another challenge are the mule accounts and the complex layering of transactions by cybercriminals to launder crime proceeds. Some knowingly lend their bank accounts as mules, while others are deceived.

In complex cases, investigators have traced layering up to 1,000 accounts.

The individual peeling of the layers, gaining access and verifying each account, tracing the holders, serving notices and waiting for a response, all while cases keep getting registered, becomes nearly impossible.

Well-placed sources said efforts were underway to amend the laws and bring certain provisions to aid the probe and trial, while ensuring they don't get misused.

"We have learnt from our experiences and have incorporated the solutions into our training. Along with the police, regular training is provided to prosecutors and judicial officers," Vamsi Krishna said.

Dharmasthala case: Tension in Brahmavar...

Dharmasthala case, from Page 1

Earlier in the day, when Udupi police arrived at his residence in Ujire, Belthangady taluk, with an arrest warrant, Thimarodi initially refused to cooperate, pointing out that he had obtained anticipatory bail in connection with two earlier notices issued by the police.

But as the bail period had expired, he eventually agreed to accompany the police in a private vehicle. Police skirted highways and took him to Brahmavar police station through an interior route via Karkala.

Thimarodi was accompanied by activist Girish Mattannannavar and advocates. On reaching Brahmavar, he was subjected to a lengthy interrogation.

As the news of Thimarodi's arrest spread, his followers gathered outside the police station and staged a roadblock. Subsequently, the district administration imposed prohibitory orders for 24 hours within 500-meter radius of the police station, effective from 1 pm on August 21.

Udupi Police Superintendent Hariram Shankar told media persons that the sections of BNS invoked against Thimarodi were non-bailable. The activist had ignored two prior notices issued by the police. "He is a repeat offender and thus the circumstances had necessitated his arrest," the SP said.

At the JMFC Court, Advocate Vijay Vasu Poojary, appearing on behalf of Thimarodi argued his client had not committed any grave offense to justify his detention and alleged that the arrest violated his client's fundamental rights under Article 19.

Additional Public ProsecutorMohini opposed the bail plea and told the court that Thimarodi was facing 24 cases and had been served with several notices in the past. Judge Nagesh N A rejected the bail petition and remanded him.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
KOLAR

No.CMC/TECH-HS/TENDER/CR/08/2025-26 Dated: 20.08.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Government of Karnataka KPPP Portal only)

As per Karnataka Transparency in the Public procurement act 1999-2000 law of Act 2000 and under Standard Tender documents Rules KW-4, KG-1 & KG-2 the undersigned invites tenders in Two cover system for Eligible Contractor/Authorized Dealer/Manufacturer through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** for the works detailed below. The tenderes may submit tenders for works given in the table through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** of the Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**. Further details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned. **(1)** Last date & time for submission of tender **: 28.08.2025 hrs. 17.30 (2)** Date & time of opening Technical bids **: 30.08.2025 hrs : 11.00 am.**

Sl No.	Name of work	Approximate Value (in Rs)	EMD Amount (in Rs)	Period
	2025-26 15th Finance Basic Grant			
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47942	84,40,000.00	1,44,000.00	3 Months
2	DMA/2025-26/IND5215	99,80,000.00	2,00,000.00	2 Months
	2023-24 15th Finance Basic Grant			
3	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT43316/CALL-4	1,18,000.00	2500.00	2 ತಿಂಗಳು
	2024-25 15th Finance Basic Grant			
4	DMA/2025-26/IND4899	25,00,000.00	50,000.00	1 Month
5	DMA/2025-26/IND4888	5,60,000.00	14,000.00	1 Month
6	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT43315/CALL-4	10,53,000.00	18,000.00	2 Months

Sd/- K.Lakshmidevamma, President, CMC, Kolar
Sd/- Sangeetha V, Vice President, CMC, Kolar
Sd/- Firoz Khan, Standing committee Chairman, CMC, Kolar
Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, CMC, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/R.O:238/KSMCA/2025-26

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH

Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-08/TS/2025-26 Date: 13.08.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 08/2025-26

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Rural for the Supply of Vehicle based on monthly rental rate basis for the Office of the Assistant Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Sub-Division, Nelamangala Taluk. The service work details can be obtained from the KPP Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **28-08-2025 upto 5.00 P.M.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/2219/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/BGKT/TR(OZ)/EE(C)/AEE(C)/25-26/7806-12 Date:21.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bid Enquiry for the following works.

(1) KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT2558 for Providing Approach Road at colony premises at 110kv S/s Nehru Nagar Belagavi **(2)** KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 2404. for Providing security fencing at 110kv Nehru Nagar, Belagavi **(3)** KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 2562. for Construction of Compound wall at 110kv Yaragatti. **(4)** KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT2563. for Construction of compound wall at 110kv Nagarmunavali. The Bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging into (KPP) Portal website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 25.08.2025 at 5.30 P.M.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (El.,), Transmission (Operations)
Zone, KPTCL, Navanagara, Bagalkote-587 103

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board

Office of the Chief Engineer Dharwad
Sir.M. Vishveshvarayya Road, Jalamandali Compound, Dharwad-580 001
Tel No: 0836-2447090 E-mail: kwbcen@ gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER CALL-2 (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders for the following works are invited (two tender document system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. This office Tender Notification No: 1201 Dated: 20-08-2025.

(1) Providing Man Power services through Outsource for the Operation and Maintenance of Bulk Water Supply System of Vijayapur city for the period of Twelve (12) months under O & M of water supply scheme to vijayapur city. INDENT NO. KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT356\CALL-2. (2) Providing Man Power services through Outsource for the Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Distribution system of Vijayapur city for a period of Twelve (12) months under O&M of Water Supply Scheme to Vijayapur city. INDENT NO. KUWSDB/2025-26/ WS/WORK_INDENT357\CALL-2. For further information visit e-procurement portal or Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER,
DIPR/Dwd/576/DeshpandePublicity-2025-26 **KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.**

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)

Regd. Office 3rd Floor, BMTC Complex (C Wing), K H Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027.
Website: www.bmrc.co.in

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR RENEWAL OF BMRCL INSURANCE POLICIES 2025-26

BMRCL is inviting bids from eligible Insurance Companies for renewal of Insurance Policies for the year 2025-26, through Central Public Procurement (CPP) portal of Government of India. For details, please visit **Tender section** of our **website: www.bmrc.co.in** The bids will have to be submitted online through the CPP Portal of the Government. Please go through the detailed instructions in this regard to submit your competitive quotes.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 21st August, 2025

Sd/-
Company Secretary

KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK

(Scheduled Bank Owned by Government)
Head Office, Gandhi Nagar, Ballari. Phone: 08392 – 470006/470007

Karnataka Grameena Bank, Head Office, Ballari invites bids for supply & installation of Sign Boards to nearly 2000 Branches/Offices of the Bank from vendors based in Karnataka & have experience in Supply and Installation of Normal & Glow Sign Boards to PSUs, Government organizations etc.

Applications are invited in the prescribed format for carrying out supply/installation works at various Branches/Offices coming within the state of Karnataka. For details / application form, contact above office or log on to our web site www.karnatakagrameenabank.com and go to the menu Tenders / E-Auctions from the Homepage to download the tender documents.

The last date for submission of bids is 09.09.2025 up to 03.00 PM.

Place: Ballari
Date: 20.08.2025 **Sd/- General Manager**

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department)
KARNATAKA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

III Floor, Grameenabhivruddhi Bhavana, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone No.: 080-29710021/ 22 / 23 / 24 Fax: 080-29710025
E-mail: coo.krrda.karbng@kar.nic.in Website: http://www.krrda.in

No: KRRDA/TECH/11/208/TND NOT-3/2025-26/1364 Date: 21-08-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION-3

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, KRRDA invites Item Rate Tenders through KPP portal for the following Indent works.

I) PM-JANMAN Scheme Batch-II of 2024-25 - 4 Nos of Road Improvement Works (Reservation Works) of Indent No: KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 206/Call-2 (CAT-I), 207/Call-2 (SC), 214/Call-2 (ST) & 217/Call-2 (CAT-IIA).

- Amount Put to Tender (APT): Minimum **Rs. 40.00 Lakh** and Maximum **Rs. 83.00 Lakh.**
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): **2% of the APT.**

II) CM Special Grants 2023-24 (5054) - Road Improvement Work of Indent No: KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT _221/Call-2

- Amount Put to Tender (APT): **Rs. 156.64 Lakh.**
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): **1.5% of the APT,** Subject to Minimum of **Rs. 2.00 Lakh.**

Calendar of tendering events are as follows:

1) Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **29-08-2025, Friday at 11.00 AM. 2)** Last Date for Online Submission of Bids: **08-09-2025, Monday upto 5.30 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **09-09-2025, Tuesday after 5:30 PM onwards. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Completing the Technical Bid Evaluation of the respective works.**

As per PWD registration, eligible contractors may participate in the tender. For any further work-related information, the concerned **Executive Engineer, Project Division** may be contacted. Work-related and Other details of the tender can be obtained from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Tendering Officer and Executive Engineer
DIPR/CP/2427/Adverto/2025-26 **KRRDA, Bengaluru.**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Bangalore South Division, Amruthnagara, Konanakunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bangalore - 560 062.

No:BBMP/EE/BSD/TEND/06/2025-26 Date:21.08.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Two Cover Tender)

The Executive Engineer, Bangalore South Division invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1	Improvements to Roads and Drains at KS Layout and surrounding area in Ward No. 205, Yelechenahalli **(Call-2).** Approximate value of work: **Rs. 40.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 40,000/- (Reserved for CAT-II(A))**
2	Providing name Board and Re-paint the Old Boards in Ward No. 210, Kalena Agrahara **(Call-2).** Approximate value of work: **Rs. 20.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 50,000/- (Reserved for Others).**
3	Providing name Board and Re-paint the Old Boards in Ward No. 211, Begur **(Call-2).** Approximate value of work: **Rs. 20.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 50,000/- (Reserved for Others).**
4	Drilling of Borewells in Ward No. 225, Kudlu **(3rd Call).** Approximate value of work: **Rs. 38.70 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 77,400/- (Reserved for Others).**

1)Tender Documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal. **2)** Last Date for receipt of tenders: **29.08.2025 upto 4.00 p.m. 3)** Date of opening of Technical bids: **30.08.2025 at 4.30 p.m.** For further details, visit KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bangalore South Division.

Administrative Training Institute

Lalitha Mahal Road, Mysore -570011
Phone : 0821-2520906/2443835/2443265/2522142
e-mail : dg-atimysore@gmail.com
Website : atimysore.karnataka.gov.in, sirdmysuru.karnataka.gov.in & siudmysore.gov.in

No: ATI/2/TND/2025-JD-ATI **Date:** 21.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Administrative Training Institute, Mysore and State Institute for Urban Development (Functioning in ATI Campus), Mysore is inviting Short Term tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for providing Horticulture Maintenance Service for a period of One year. Registered/eligible firms/organizations can submit their bids through the Karnataka Public Procurement portal Website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Details of the tender are as follows:

Sl. No.	Details of the Service	Approximate Amount	E.M.D.
1	Tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for providing Horticulture Maintenance Service for Administrative Training Institute and State Institute for Urban Development (Functioning in ATI Campus), Mysore for a period of one year.	**Rs. 97,95,823/-**	**Rs. 1,95,916/-**

The tender documents can be viewed on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from **22.08.2025 at 11:30AM.** The last date for the submission of bid is **30.08.2025 at 5:30 (Evening).** The Tender bids will be opened on **02.09.2025 at 11:30** in the Morning. Further information can be obtained from the above mentioned address

Sd/-
Joint Director (Admin)
Administrative Training Institute, Mysuru

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/831/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ & ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ.
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕ್ಯಾಂಪಸ್
ಟಿಬಿಡ್ಯಾಂ ರ್ಸ್ಟೆಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ-583225e-mail.ID-ceozpvijayanagara@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ZPV/MGNREGA/MANPOWER/01/2025–26 ದಿ:19.08.2025

Advertisement

To procure ADPC, DAM, DMIS DIEC, TC, TAE(CIVIL & LINE DEPT), TIEC, TMIS, Admin Asst, DEO human resource services on outsource basis for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Scheme in Hospet Harapanahalli, Hagaribommanahalli Hadagali, Kudligi, Kottur Taluk Panchayat Offices of Vijayanagar Zilla Panchayat Office for FY 2025-26, through outsource agency online tender is invited through e-procurement at district level for selection of outsource agency to provide above human resource services. The details are as follows.

Through e-procurement Portal

1.TENDER REFERENCE: **Ref: RDPR/2025-26/SE2890 Date: 19.08.2025.** 2.DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT: **19.08.2025.** 3.AMOUNT PUT TO THE TENDER: **5,50,62,672/-(Five Crore Fifty Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Two Rupees Only.** 4.TOTAL AMOUNT OF E.M.D: **8,25,940/- (Eight Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred & Fourty Rupees Only).** 5.Start date for Uploading the Tender document in e-portal: **19-08-2025 from 16.00 Hr Onwards.** 6.Pre-Bid Meeting Date, Time & Place: **09-09-2025 at 15.00 HrAt ZP Conference hall** 7.Last Date for receiving pre-bid queries: **Date 09-09-2025 Before 15.00 Hr.** 8.Last Date for submission of proposals in e-portal: **18-09-2025 upto16:00 Hr.** 9.Opening of Technical Bids in the e-portal: **20-09-2025 @ 11.00 Hr.** 10.Opening of Financial Bids of Technically qualified Bidders: **22-09-2025 @ 11.00 Hr.** 11.ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION: **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PANCHAYATH, VIJAYANAGARA, DC OFFICE BUILDING VIJAYANAGARA, HOSAPETE-583225Sunil B Somanal (District Accounts Manager) Mobil-8497852485.**

For more information please contact this website https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy Secretary, Zilla Panchayath, Vijayanagara.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/214

Got SpaceX to avoid 'catastrophe' of Shubhanshu Shukla rocket: Isro

'We saved the lives of four astronauts' by insisting on locating leak, says V Narayanan

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chief V Narayanan on Thursday said the US firm SpaceX, whose Falcon rocket ferried Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and three others to space, took the spacecraft's critical liquid oxygen leak issue a "little lightly", and didn't share key information, citing confidentiality.

Narayanan said it was at Isro scientists' and engineers' insistence that SpaceX examined the leak in the oxidiser lines that carry liquid oxygen to the rocket engines, and discovered a crack that could have proved fatal.

"They had to call off the launch at 5.15 pm on June 10. The launch was supposed to take place the next morning. The management gave a direction to find the leak location. When it was located, it was found to be a crack," he said.

"During the test, the leak increased continuously. The data is available to us. If the rocket lifted off with the crack, it would have given way at the moment of lift-off due to vibrations. It would have been a catastrophe... We saved the lives of four astronauts," said the Isro chairman at a press conference here alongside Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh, Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair.

From left: Isro chief V Narayanan, Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Union MoS Jitendra Singh, astronaut and Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla during a joint press briefing after the successful accomplishment of Axiom-4 mission and updates on Gaganyaan Mission on Thursday. PTI

The Isro team working on liquid-oxygen-powered engines for over 40 years insisted on a complete correction, which the SpaceX team carried out. A 13-member Isro team was present at the launch site in the US. An eight-second test was needed to understand the rocket's performance before it could be cleared for the mission.

"They (SpaceX) completed the tests, but did not open up the results. They said the committees had cleared it and that they were going ahead with the launch programme," he said.

"They probably thought it was a minor leakage. When it came out in the press, we asked where the leak was. To our surprise, they said they could not find its location. We were shocked. We asked what the leak rate was. They said it was confidential and that they could not reveal it," said Narayanan.

"When we probed again and again, only two out of 14 questions were handled, and we were not comfortable. The main advantage for us was that our team had been working in this field for 40 years. If it were a small block, no problem; but if it were a crack, it could not be allowed."

India spent Rs 548 crore on the Axiom-4 mission, in which Shukla and three other astronauts travelled to the International Space Station, where they spent 18 days carrying out 60 scientific experiments, including seven India-specific ones.

Maha: 4 workers killed after gas leak at pharma company

PALGHAR, DHNS: Four workers were killed and two are critical following a gas leak in a pharmaceutical company in Palghar district's Boisar industrial area on Thursday.

The incident took place between 2.30 pm and 3 pm, due to gas leakage in a nitrogen reaction tank in Medley Pharma located in the industrial area of Boisar, around 130 km from Mumbai.

The deceased workers were identified as Kalpesh Raut, Bengali Thakur, Dheeraj Prajapati and Kamlesh Yadav. The two workers who are in the intensive care unit are Rohan Shinde and Nilesh Hadal. Experts and authorities are ascertaining the cause of the leak.

YSRCP backs NDA in VP election

HYDERABAD, DHNS: YSRCP senior leader and MLC Botsa Satyanarayana has clarified his party's stance on the upcoming Vice President election, stressing that YSRCP has always opposed any numbers game in constitutional posts, a policy maintained since its inception.

He recalled that party chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had earlier supported Pranab Mukherjee for President during the Congress tenure, citing it as an example of consistency in their approach.

Following the same principle, Satyanarayana announced that YSRCP will support the NDA's Vice President candidate. The party currently has 11 members across the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

"Our party's policy is that constitutional posts should not be contested. There is no deviation from it. Even in the past, during Congress tenure, we supported Pranab Mukherjee," Satyanarayana told reporters in Rajahmundry.

Asked about Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's appeal to parties from both Telugu states to support the INDIA Bloc's candidate on the grounds of Telugu pride, Satyanarayana said YSRCP would not consider the request. He countered: "Is the NDA Vice President candidate not from South India?"

I.N.D.I.A bloc VP candidate Reddy files nomination

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Setting the stage for an electoral duel in which the ruling BJP has a definite edge, Opposition joint candidate Justice B Sudershan Reddy on Thursday filed his nominations on the last day, saying this election is "not merely" about one individual but about "reaffirming the idea of India" as envisaged by the founding fathers.

He was accompanied by top Opposition leaders like Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and Sonia Gandhi.

2026 state polls between DMK & TVK, says Vijay

Rules out alliance with DMK, BJP in Tamil Nadu elections

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
MADURAI, DHNS

Invoking the legendary M G Ramachandran and positioning Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) as the primary anti-DMK force in Tamil Nadu, actor-politician Vijay on Thursday dropped strong hints that his party will contest the 2026 assembly polls independently. He termed the elections as a 'turning point' for the state and that it would end the 'poisonous' DMK rule.

In a 33-minute power-packed speech before about four lakh supporters, Vijay played to the gallery by heavily using symbolism and imagery to claim he possessed the 'magic wand' to solve the problems of the people.

While the DMK faced the maximum attacks in Vijay's speech, his real target, at least for the 2026 elections, seemed to be the AIADMK, which controlled the anti-DMK narrative and votes for four decades, and its drifting voters. Reiterating that the TVK's political and ideological enemies are the DMK and BJP, respectively, Vijay for the first time also condemned the AIADMK for compromising its core ideology by aligning with the saffron party.

TVK chief Vijay addresses the party's second state-level conference in Madurai on Thursday. PTI

"The 2026 fight is only between two players — TVK and the DMK," Vijay declared, asserting that the contest will ultimately narrow down to these two parties despite a crowded electoral field.

'My dear Stalin uncle'

Vijay's sharpest criticism was reserved for Stalin, especially on the issue of women's safety, and he tore into the chief minister by saying women call him 'Appa' (father).

"I am the thai maaman (maternal uncle) of every girl child in Tamil Nadu. And I am here to ask tough questions to uncle Stalin, my dear uncle; this is very wrong...you have failed in every aspect," he said.

Vijay also sought to respond to criticism that he was the only known face in the TVK, saying he will be the party's candidate from Madurai (East), sending the crowd into raptures. He then went on to list the nine other segments in the district where he will contest.

"Do you think I will contest everywhere? It is not me who will contest in all 234 seats. To put it bluntly, the candidate will be from your own home. I am not exaggerating. Every vote for TVK is a vote for me," he added.

From 'vote theft' to SIR: How Oppn united during Monsoon Session

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The just-concluded Monsoon Session turned out to be a month that cemented unity in the Opposition in taking on the Narendra Modi government: It found a common cause in "vote chori" (vote theft) inside and outside Parliament, and the I.N.D.I.A bloc made adjustments to rope in the non-aligned AAP.

The Opposition also managed to find a consensus candidate for the vice-presidential elections without any trouble, while around 300 MPs marched towards the Election Commission (EC) office, a feat unthinkable during the February-March Budget Session, where allies drifted apart over differences in perception and priorities.

Like Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's disqualification and the Waqf (Amendment) Bill earlier, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and elsewhere united the Opposition this time. Rahul's press conference on "vote theft" added spice to the session.

Parliamentarians of the I.N.D.I.A bloc parties stage a protest over alleged 'vote theft', during the Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi. PTI

This time, the Opposition refused to be distracted by emerging issues like the US tariffs, and instead stuck to "vote theft".

While a discussion on "Operation Sindoor" did take place, the Opposition managed to put forth its point strongly. Ahead of the debate, the Congress played its cards well by checkmating its disgruntled MP Shashi Tharoor, asking him whether he would speak on Operation Sindoor, which he smartly avoided as he would have to toe the party line.

Soon after the debate on Operation Sindoor, the Opposition was back on its protest on SIR, which culminated with the August 11 march to the EC and continued in different forms till the end of the session on Thursday.

This one month also saw a renewed interest in reviving the I.N.D.I.A bloc 13 months after the Lok Sabha election results: The alliance partners met online, after which Rahul hosted a dinner meeting for top leaders.

Days later, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge hosted a dinner for Opposition MPs.

Though the AAP left the I.N.D.I.A bloc, special care was taken to ensure that the Arvind Kejriwal-led party remained with the larger group on issues, as the coalition projected its EC march, VP candidate, and two joint press conferences as "Opposition and not I.N.D.I.A's initiatives".

Minor differences

Though there were minor differences, the Congress and the Trinamool also showed bonhomie.

In the VP elections, the Trinamool's support helped the Congress pick Justice B Sudershan Reddy, who is considered close to the grand old party, without much trouble.

The session also saw Rahul more visibly taking charge of the I.N.D.I.A bloc. His press conference made it harder for several senior Opposition leaders to ignore him.

The Election Commission's countermove drew them more towards him, while the government's Bills on removal of top political executives at the Centre and states added to the cohesion.

MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

32 Number of days	21 Number of sitting

- 14 **Bills introduced** in Lok Sabha
- 12 **Bills passed** by **Lok Sabha**
- 15 **Bills passed** by **Rajya Sabha**
- 15 Bills were passed by **both Houses**

18 hours 41 minutes
Total time dedicated to **Operation Sindoor** in **Lok Sabha,** where 73 members took part

16 hours 25 minutes
Total time dedicated to **Operation Sindoor** in **Rajya Sabha,** where 65 members took part

PM's dig at Cong leadership's 'insecurity'

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In his customary tea meeting with leaders of all parties at Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's office, which key Opposition leaders unceremoniously skipped, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was pleased with the fruitful Monsoon Session and took a dig at the Congress leadership calling them "insecure".

In the meeting, which saw only leaders of NDA parties, the PM said this session was good because important Bills were passed.

"He particularly praised the government and said the passing of the Online Gaming Bill would have a far-reaching impact and especially affect the public. He said this was an issue that should be discussed more," a leader said.

Modi also said the Opposition could have participated in the discussion on major Bills, but was only engaged in creating disruptions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting of NDA leaders after the conclusion of the Monsoon session of Parliament. PTI

"Modi also said that many young leaders in the Opposition, especially in the Congress, were very talented, but due to the insecurity of the family, these leaders do not get a chance to speak.

"He said that these young leaders might have been making Rahul Gandhi insecure and nervous," said the leader.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju also slammed the Opposition over the lack of decorum in the Monsoon Session and said they have broken the trust of the government despite assurances that they will hold discussions.

Some members came prepared to disrupt instead of protesting, Rijiju said, and added that for the first time the Opposition skipped the customary meeting with the Speaker.

Despite disruptions, he said, the Session was 'fruitful and successful' for the government but 'unsuccessful and damaging' for the Opposition.

The government-Opposition standoff came to a head when several Trinamool MPs tore copies of the "criminal netas" Bill when Union Home Minister Amit Shah was introducing the three bills in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Trinamool MPs accused senior BJP ministers of manhandling them. However, CCTV camera footage from Parliament apparently showed no heckling.

Despite speculation that action would be taken against TMC MPs, sources said the home minister insisted that no action be taken against anyone.

Kerala school blast fans political flames

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The explosion of a country bomb near a school in Kerala's Palakkad district has sparked panic and ignited a political row.

The blast occurred at Vyasa Vidya Peetom Primary School in Vadakanthara on Wednesday evening. A 10-year-old student sustained minor injuries after unknowingly throwing an explosive device found near the school. An elderly woman was also injured in the blast.

Subsequent police searches found four more similar explosives on the school premises. Sources said the explosives were believed to have been kept for trapping wild boars.

The school is managed by RSS workers. The CPM and Congress alleged that the explosives were kept ready to unleash violence in the state ahead of the elections. The CPM alleged that RSS training camps used to be held at the school. The CPM and DYFI also demanded that all RSS sakhas be raided for explosives.

The BJP-RSS camps alleged a conspiracy behind the discovery of explosives at the school.

Delhi CM Gupta gets 'Z' category VIP security day after attack

NEW DELHI, PTI: Deployment of CRPF personnel in the inner security cover of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, installation of a watch tower at her residence and stringent checks at public events are among the measures that will be put in place, a day after she was attacked during a public hearing.

On Thursday, the CRPF took charge of the chief minister's security as the Union government accorded 'Z' category VIP security cover to her.

Bills to oust jailed ministers: TMC unlikely to send members for JPC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Trinamool Congress is unlikely to nominate members to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) set up to examine the Bills seeking removal of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and state and central ministers if arrested and detained in custody for 30 days in a row, sources said.

Sources said Trinamool leaders had in a meeting of I.N.D.I.A floor leaders on Wednesday suggested that the entire Opposition should boycott the Joint Committee proceedings. However, no decision was taken at the alliance level.

The Trinamool Congress is contemplating not sending its nominations to the 31-member multi-party committee as the Bills are being used as a "political weapon", sources said, adding that they believe that the Bills will not get enough numbers in Parliament to be passed, and it would be a sheer waste of time.

Even if it is passed, they said, it may not clear judicial custody. A Constitution amendment Bill needs two-thirds majority to get clearance, and at present, the NDA government on its own does not have the numbers.

After their introduction in Lok Sabha, The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill 2025, The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill 2025 and The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2025 were referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament.

During the introduction of the Bills in Lok Sabha by Home Minister Amit Shah, Trinamool Congress MPs had rushed into the Well of the House and tore the Bill and flung at the Minister. In Rajya Sabha also when the motion to send the Bills to the JPC was moved by Shah on Thursday, the Trinamool had protested.

On Wednesday, Trinamool MPs submitted two letters to Speaker Om Birla complaining about the jostling in Lok Sabha during the introduction of the Bills.

PM's Bihar visit to pack Rs 13k-cr punch

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to unveil yet another round of largesse for poll-bound Bihar on Friday.

This time, he will launch projects worth Rs 13,000 crore in the fields of health, the power sector, urban development, infrastructure and road construction.

This includes a six-lane bridge on the Ganga connecting Patna with Begusarai. Constructed at a whopping cost of Rs 1,871 crore, it is the widest bridge in Asia, with a width of 34 metres.

The Aunta–Simaria bridge on NH-31, including 6 lane Bridge on river Ganga, ahead of its inauguration by PM Modi. PTI

Modi is scheduled to address a public rally on the campus of Magadh University in Gaya. The NDA has been weak in the Magadh region (central Bihar), where the JD(U) did not win a single seat out of the 26 spread across five districts in the Magadh division during the 2020 Assembly polls.

He will also flag off the Amrit Bharat Express connecting Gaya with New Delhi and a Buddhist circuit train between Vaishali and Koderma. This is in addition to the special passenger trains the Railways has decided to run for Bihar during Diwali and Chhath.

This marks PM Modi's fourth visit to Bihar in the past four months, following rallies in Madhubani, Siwan and Rohtas. As the party's chief crowd-puller, the BJP has been orchestrating monthly visits by the PM to energise its cadre and bolster its prospects ahead of the elections, scheduled for October and November.

At the rally in Gaya, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will be joined by Union Ministers Jitan Ram Manjhi and Chirag Paswan, Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and other senior leaders.

"Adequate arrangements have been made for the PM's programme. We expect around 2 lakh people to attend the rally in Gaya," said Choudhary.

Elaborate security arrangements have been put in place in and around Gaya, with the Gaya airport declared a no-flying zone during the prime minister's visit.

Kerala Youth Congress chief steps down amid misconduct allegations

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Rahul Mamkootathil, Congress MLA from Palakkad, stepped down as Kerala Youth Congress president following allegations of inappropriate conduct. The AICC leadership reportedly took the matter seriously and asked him to resign.

Mamkootathil, who won the Palakkad bypoll last November, told reporters that he did not believe the allegations made by actor Rini Ann George were directed at him. He said he was resigning to avoid burdening party leaders with defending him, and denied all allegations, giving himself a clean chit.

Mamkootathil had been facing a social media campaign over his alleged relationship with a woman journalist.

'Offensive messages'

On Wednesday, actor Rini Ann George told reporters that a "young leader" had sent her offensive messages and claimed that several others had similarly bitter experiences. While she did not name anyone, her references to a recently elected MLA known for saying "who cares" were interpreted as indirect references to Mamkootathil.

Rahul Mamkootathil

On Thursday, NRI writer Honey Bhaskaran alleged in a social media post that she, too, had unpleasant experiences with the Congress leader. She claimed that several other women, including Youth Congress workers, had faced similar misconduct.

Bhaskaran cited a past remark by a Youth Congress member who allegedly said that Congress MP and former Youth Congress state president Shafi Parambil was aware of "all perverts" within the organisation.

An audio clip, purportedly featuring Mamkootathil in conversation with a woman who claimed to be impregnated by him, has also surfaced online.

Opposition leader VD Satheesan said the Congress would take stringent action against any leader found guilty of misconduct. He confirmed that actor Rini had approached him with a complaint about inappropriate messages sent by a party leader, adding that she was "like a daughter" to him.

Both the CPM and BJP have launched protests demanding that Mamkootathil resign from his MLA post.

With local body and Assembly elections looming in Kerala, the fresh allegations have come as a major embarrassment for the party.

Party insiders point out that rival camps have faced similar allegations. Last year, CPM MLA and actor Mukesh was named in a sexual assault case, but the CPM rejected calls for his resignation.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Sweeping powers and the morality ruse

The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill and associated bills that were tabled in Parliament on Wednesday violate the principles that underlie the Constitution and the democratic polity. These bills are ill-conceived and are liable to be unfairly implemented. They seek to punish a person before the crime is proved, as they provide for the removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and ministers from office if they are arrested or detained in custody for 30 consecutive days for offences that attract a jail term of at least five years. The bills have been sent to a joint committee of parliament which is to return them before the next session so that they can be enacted at the earliest.

Probity in public office is important but it cannot be pursued by circumventing due process. The bills, if enacted, will become another weapon in the hands of the Central government to target Opposition parties and their ministers. Central investigative agencies, including the CBI and the ED, are now being used to hound politicians in the Opposition camp. At present, the law and its existing processes provide them cover but the proposed laws can remove all defences, exposing anyone to politically motivated, vindictive detention. These will be the new Article 356, without its safeguards and procedures, enabling the Central government to destabilise state governments. The bills are out of tune with the essential norms of parliamentary democracy and deal a blow to constitutional federalism. They challenge the separation of powers between the organs of state and give executive agencies unfettered power to dismiss elected governments.

The new bills conflict with tenets of parliamentary democracy and constitutional federalism

The government has sought to justify the bills on the ground of public interest and the need for elected representatives to be honest and above suspicion. But going by the Narendra Modi government's record, these ethical and moral arguments would be mere excuses for targeted actions against the opponents. Long-drawn legal processes and low rates of conviction may have prompted the government to explore quicker ways to get at its political opponents. The bills are not aimed at cleansing the political system but at weakening the Opposition. They are unlikely to pass the judicial muster, even if they get parliamentary approval, because they go against the basic tenet of the rule of law that no one can be held guilty till proven otherwise. The resignation of people holding office is a political matter between them, their parties, and the people. The law should have no role to play until they are proven guilty.

A leadership vacuum in the varsities

When Karnataka's Higher Education Minister M C Sudhakar admitted in the legislative council that the state is struggling to find qualified candidates for Vice Chancellor posts, it struck a raw nerve in the academic community. For a state that prides itself on being India's knowledge hub – with an IIT, IIM, and a range of reputed universities – this shortage raises disturbing questions about the governance and future of higher education. On paper, the eligibility criteria appear straightforward: the Vice Chancellor must be an eminent academic with at least ten years of teaching experience. But behind this simple rule lies a harsh reality. Many accomplished scholars are unwilling to apply. Not because they lack ambition, but because they view the system as skewed. The perception that extraneous considerations, including caste equations, political patronage, and even allegations of monetary deals, outweigh academic merit has cast a long shadow. There is a general impression that transparency in appointments is at best patchy, at worst absent.

For those qualifying, the job itself can seem deeply unappealing. Universities in Karnataka are plagued by funding shortages, political interference, and chronic vacancies in faculty positions. Even an outstanding scholar risks being reduced to a bureaucrat navigating red tape rather than a leader shaping academic destiny. It is hardly surprising, then, that many of the state's brightest minds – people who have international exposure, research credentials, and reputations to protect – would rather focus on their academic careers or accept positions in central institutions. The leadership vacuum should be addressed with imagination. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has already suggested widening the eligibility criteria to include senior professionals from public administration or industry who have made academic contributions. IIMs, for instance, have shown how involving eminent professionals and industrialists in leadership roles can strengthen institutions without undermining their academic ethos. Karnataka would do well to explore, not reject, such ideas.

Karnataka must restore credibility in V-C appointments, expand eligibility criteria

The solution is twofold. First, and most critically, the state must restore credibility in the appointment process by making it transparent and merit-driven, insulated from political calculations and external pressures. Second, it must show openness to reimagining leadership in higher education, considering proven talent from wider fields. If these steps are not taken, Karnataka's universities risk a slow decline, governed not by the most capable but by the most compliant. For a state that aspires to lead India's knowledge economy, settling for mediocrity at the top is not merely a missed opportunity; it is an avoidable failure.

VANITY THEATRE

Trump and Munir in a narcissist waltz

India must ignore this relationship of convenience, build its autonomy on economic and technological heft

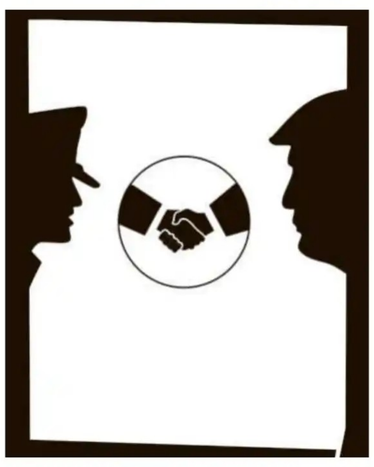
GURUCHARAN GOLLERKERI

In the glittering ballroom of geopolitics, the latest dance sensation is the Donald Trump-Asim Munir waltz, a performance so brazen, so self-absorbed, that one could be forgiven for thinking it was a satire penned by Hans Christian Andersen himself. Unfortunately, it is real. There they are: Donald Trump, the comeback emperor of Mar-a-Lago, and Field Marshal Asim Munir, the ceremonial strongman of Rawalpindi, twirling to the rhythm of their egos. The silk robes they imagine themselves wearing. Pure illusion. The rest of the world can see the truth, but as in Andersen's tale, the courtiers clap anyway, lest they lose their place at the banquet. Duplicity is the guest of honour at this ball.

First, the United States, in an act of acrobatic diplomacy, insists that Pakistan – the same Pakistan that has cultivated, sheltered, and exported terrorism for decades – is its 'counterterrorism partner'. This is like hiring the fox to run the henhouse and then applauding his 'security arrangements.' Washington's scriptwriters have pulled this trick for years, mistaking convenience for principle. Consider the oil melodrama. China guzzles more Russian oil than India could dream of importing, yet it is India that gets the threat of penalties. Why? Because China is the bully in the playground with an army at its back, while India, though increasingly assertive, is still seen as the democratic partner to be reprimanded for infractions others commit with impunity. It is not strategy; it is plain US cowardice vis-a-vis China, and it reeks of hypocrisy.

The other blustering pretender, Field Marshal Munir, is a man who, in the ledger of recent military history, chalked up defeat against India. In a world where merit should matter, this might have meant a quiet retirement. In Pakistan's theatre of the absurd, however, it meant promotion to Field Marshal – a ceremonial title dressed up as a triumph. And what does he do with his new finery? While on US soil, he brandishes the nuclear card. Imagine turning up at your host's dinner party and threatening to burn the house down, and then still being toasted with champagne.

Trump and Munir are united by more than convenience. They are both deeply committed to the art of self-regard. Each is convinced of his indispensability and prepared to bend the stage lights until they shine only on him. Narcissism is their shared language, vanity their currency. Their duet is dangerous because the courtiers – governments, think tanks, and a depressingly compliant media – are playing along. 'What an impressive counterterrorism partner,' they say of Pakistan. 'What a statesmanlike energy policy,' they nod to China while admonishing India.



The truth-tellers are rare and usually shouted down for spoiling the party. The costs of indulging naked emperors are steep. Counterterrorism becomes a stage prop. Economic sanctions morph into geopolitical theatre, punishing the easiest to push around rather than the most culpable. Regional tensions are stoked because confrontation makes for better headlines than quiet resolution. And the actual business of building a fair, stable, and rules-based world order is banished.

India, caught between this Narcissist waltz and the realpolitik backstage, has little choice but to play the long game. There is no point in expecting fairness from an arrangement that rewards spectacle over substance. With the US, India must engage pragmatically – cooperate on technology, trade, and defence where mutual interests align – without imagining that a 'strategic partnership' means immunity from arm-twisting. With Pakistan, strategic firmness must remain the guiding principle and, when necessary, quiet disdain for its theatrics. With China, India must recognise the rivalry for what it is, while building alliances and capacities that make it a peer competitor in economics and innovation. This is not just about weathering the current duet. It is about building economic and technological heft that renders the emperors' approval irrelevant. The true antidote to narcissistic politics is independence: the ability to act on one's own terms, regardless of who is preening on the balcony.

Stay off the dance floor

Patience will be key. The excesses of narcissists eventually catch up with them, though not always on the timetable we might prefer. When it comes, it will strip away the pretence, revealing not gilded robes but the naked ambition and insecurity underneath. In time, the Trump-Munir waltz will lose its music. Perhaps a new emperor will take the floor. Perhaps the audience will finally tire of clapping for nothing. But for now, the emperors twirl on, convinced their invisible robes dazzle the crowd. The courtiers cheer. And the child in the corner – perhaps a resolute nation, perhaps an inconvenient journalist – shakes their head and says what everyone knows but few will admit: They are not wearing anything at all.

History will have the last word. When it does, it is unlikely to be kind to those who mistook personal vanity for diplomacy. The Trump-Munir chapter will be remembered not for diplomatic breakthroughs or moral leadership, but for its embodiment of the perils of narcissism in high office. Two men, convinced of their own indispensability, danced their duet on the stage of global politics, oblivious to the fact that a weary audience was already looking for the exit. Consider Trump's Alaska moment: it evaporated, and with it the 'severe consequences' he had threatened Russia with.

India, for its part, should neither join the dance nor allow itself to be choreographed by it. The work ahead – building a robust economy, securing technological leadership, strengthening democratic institutions – may not have the spectacle of a narcissist's parade, but it will have the dignity of purpose. And dignity, unlike vanity, does not need an audience to survive. The world is full of emperors in invisible clothes. The wise know better than to become their tailors.

(The writer is Director, School of Social Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

From ship to stage in 90 days...

I nearly embarked on a musical voyage; my mother struck the note of caution

GOPINATH CHANDROTH

As a young marine engineer, I lived with my parents in Mysore when on leave from the ships. One morning, a man in traditional South Indian garb walked in through our front gate. He had the characteristic marks of a scholar – a white *dhoti* and an *angavastram* across his upper body, sandalwood paste on the forehead and an elegant *kudumi*. He exuded an air of authority.

"Namaskaram, I teach music to children," he said, glancing over my shoulders.

I told him that I was the youngest of the household. At 26, I wouldn't qualify. He was not dissuaded. He could clearly read the disappointment on my face. "Adults can learn music too. I could teach you, if you like?"

Now, I had never considered taking music lessons. My life being split between the sea and land, there was no opportunity to embark on such a learning project either. I replied, "Unfortunately, I work on ships. I have only three months before I rejoin."

"Plenty of time. Start tomorrow and you'll be giving a concert before you leave." He was persuasive. I always suspected there was a musician hiding within me. Here was my guru, coming to unleash my talent on the world.

I didn't need further encouragement and agreed. He asked me to be ready the next day with a picture of Saraswati, a coconut and other paraphernalia for conducting a Guru pooja. His fee of 3000 rupees was to be paid after the pooja. He left happy, the morning sun eclipsed by the glow on his smiling face.

My mother had only seen him leave and asked me who he was. I informed her that he was to be my music teacher and we were embarking on a project to turn me into a professional Karnatic vocalist in three months.

"Are you mad?" she asked, hand on partly open mouth in the typical South Indian gesture for incredulity.

She quickly convinced me that I was being had. I couldn't argue with her. She was formally instructed in classical music for over two decades.

"Leave it to me. I'll talk to him tomorrow," she reassured me.

The following morning, the conversation between the teacher and my mother was along the following lines:

"Sir, did you tell my son he could give a vocal performance in three months?"

"Ah... Hmm... well, yes."

"After seven years of vocal training, my guru said my seven *swarams* (notes) were just correct. How can you train a beginner to give a concert in three months?"

"Amma, your son was very keen. I have six children to feed."

Mother gifted him a coconut, a brand new *dhoti* and Rs 101. He left, a nimbus cloud darkening his amiable face. I emerged from behind the refrigerator. To this day, the inner musician within me remains trapped.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In dealing with voters, EC must use reason and logic. Not threats

The Election Commission must recognise its role as a facilitator of elections, not just a rule-bound authority. Enumerating voters is a complex task prone to errors, given the diversity of the electorate and human fallibility. Even celebrities and VIPs have found their names missing from voter lists. There can be no absolute truth as far as the voters list is concerned but degrees of coming closer to the truth. Therefore, the Commission should proceed with caution and humility, acknowledging that voter lists can never be entirely accurate. As a Constitutional body, the Election Commission must deal with voters - from common people to dignitaries - with reason and logic, rather than resorting to threats, stonewalling, or hiding behind the rule book. Such tactics undermine the purpose of the Commission.

S Kamat, Mysuru

Authoritarian

The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill introduced by the Union government at the fag-end of the Monsoon session of Parliament is a brazen attempt to subjugate opposition-ruled states, revealing authoritarian tendencies. If passed, it will be a death knell for democracy. Notably, central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate, CBI, and I-T Department have spared BJP-ruled states, leading to questions about the government's motives.

V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Prone to misuse

The recent bills to disqualify the prime minister, chief ministers, or ministers held in custody for 30 days raise serious concerns. Equating custody with guilt sets a dangerous precedent and threatens democracy and federalism. Removal of elected representatives should follow constitutional procedures and judicial conviction, not prolonged custody that may be arbitrary or politically motivated. Reforms are necessary, but safeguards against misuse are crucial.

Vaanya Dhingra, Bengaluru

Stumbling blocks

Apropos 'Won't guv sitting on bills put govts at his whims?' (Aug 21), it is evident that the Supreme Court disapproves of governors taking an inordinate amount of time or refusing assent to bills. Governors becoming obstacles for democratically elected governments is undesirable.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I am the *thai maaman* (maternal uncle) of every girl child in Tamil Nadu. And I am here to ask tough questions to uncle Stalin, my dear uncle; this is very wrong...you have failed in every aspect...

Vijay, TVK President and actor

All politics is but a theatre/ And all politicians merely actors; They read their lines and play their fleeting parts/ In pageants we the people judge by vote.

Ian Doescher

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

When mobs derail a faith yatra

Extensive State patronage for the Kanwar Yatra has also emboldened the law-breakers

M P NATHANAEL

In July, a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan in uniform was brutally attacked by a group of kanwariyas at the Mirzapur Railway Station. The reason? The jawan asked the group not to jump the queue at the ticket counter. According to the Railway Police, the attackers were arrested and released as it is a non-cognisable offence. The jawan, Gautam Kumar, was to board a train to Dimapur to proceed to Manipur, where he was posted.

Another CRPF jawan, Krishan Kumar, 30, who had come home from his post in Chhattisgarh, was shot dead in the Kheri Damkan village in Sonipat, Haryana, by a few suspected kanwariyas with whom he had a brawl in Haridwar. A woman two-wheeler rider was assaulted by a group of kanwariyas after her vehicle grazed a kanwar (the pot containing Ganga water) in Haridwar.

The Kanwar Yatra began on July 11 and concluded on July 23. While 41.4 million kanwariyas visited Haridwar last year, the number shot up to 45 million this year. Till about the end of July, the kanwariyas who set out from Haridwar were still on their way to their home-towns, largely spread over Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Delhi. The yatris offer the Ganga water, which they collect from Haridwar, at Shiva temples in their localities.

Until about a decade ago, the kanwariyas could be seen trudging barefoot along the roads in small batches at considerable distance, in an orderly manner. With passing years, as their numbers swelled, they have taken over the roads. Many road users let them pass to avoid entering into altercations – even a trivial issue could get blown up into vandalism and violence.

With the yatra enjoying immense State patronage, particularly in the states of Uttarakhand and UP, and Delhi, the rise in numbers is not unexpected. The Chief Ministers of UP and Delhi, along with their officials, showered petals on the kanwariyas. A few years ago, a police officer of the rank of Additional Director General was seen hovering in a helicopter along the yatra route, showering petals on the yatris. In Delhi, as many as 374 registered camps were set up for the kanwariyas for rest, medical aid, and meals. The Delhi government also plans to hike the financial assistance allocated to the registered kanwar committees next year.

Over 70,000 policemen, including Home Guards and Provincial Armed Constabulary of the UP Police and Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel, were lined up along the route to maintain law and order in UP. In Delhi, nearly 10,000 police and CAPF personnel were deployed on routes frequented by the kanwariyas.

Though the police received complaints of unruly behaviour, there was not much they could do apart from request the kanwariyas to maintain calm and proceed with the yatra. In Haridwar, over a dozen FIRs were registered, and 17 arrested. Cases were registered against 150 unidentified kanwariyas for violence and unruly behaviour. In Delhi, over 250 complaints were received, but no FIRs were lodged. The policemen were cautious in handling the rowdy elements, ensuring that the situation did not get out of hand in the frenzied atmosphere.

Traffic violations and accidents

Earlier, the kanwariyas would walk the distance to Haridwar, unmindful of the hardships and the blisters on their feet. Of late, they have started to move on motorbikes and trucks with boom boxes playing loud music. Complaints regarding music played beyond permissible levels, particularly at night in residential areas, were ignored as the police were directed not to escalate the situation.

Speeding and the violation of traffic rules all along the route were largely overlooked. Three to four kanwariyas riding on a motorbike without helmets was a common sight. Who could dare to rein them in? Some of them met with fatal consequences – three died and two were injured when an ambulance crashed into their bikes on the Delhi-Meerut road. Three others died when their bike rammed into a road divider on the Delhi-Meerut expressway. Reports said none of them wore helmets.

While the law enforcers may turn a blind eye to the lawlessness that was reported along the yatra route, right under their noses, they cannot absolve themselves of the responsibilities for the vandalism and the deaths that occur on the roads during the event. Neither can they be mute spectators to the inconvenience caused to the public by the unruly elements among the yatris.

(The writer is a retired Inspector General of Police, CRPF)

Compassion that kills: Feeding wildlife endangers animals and humans

SANJAY GUBBI

A recent incident from Bandipur Tiger Reserve caught national attention: a middle-aged man narrowly escaped death while trying to take a selfie with a wild elephant on the highway. The video went viral, sparking heated debate on social media. Fortunately, the man survived without injuries. Otherwise, his family would have faced an unbearable tragedy. What's worrying is that he wasn't the only one that day — several others attempted the same reckless stunt.

Episodes like this are not rare, and they call for serious reflection. Without proper solutions, such incidents can end in tragedy for people and also create serious problems for wildlife. If you watch the video closely, the tusker can be seen pulling carrots from a truck. This tells us something crucial: the elephant already knew that vehicles often carry food and had grown accustomed to taking it.

This habit doesn't develop overnight. For years, people driving through forests have been feeding animals — peafowl, bonnet macaques, langurs — with fruits, biscuits, puffed rice, and more. In recent years, this harmful practice has spread to deer, elephants, and even sloth bears in parts of North India. The intention may seem kind, but the consequences are dangerous, both for humans and for the animals themselves.

Take the case of the Dimbham Ghat in Tamil Nadu, where truck drivers once began feeding elephants with sugarcane and vegetables. The practice soon spread to the highway through BRT Tiger Reserve in Karnataka. Social media influencers romanticised it as "compassion" for wildlife, and many followed their example. It wasn't long before Bandipur saw the same trend. What started as a seemingly kind gesture turned into a chain reaction of copycat behaviour.

Elephants are intelligent. Some began waiting by the roadside for handouts. Over time, tuskers even started blocking vehicles to snatch sugarcane or vegetables. This poses a very real danger: it is only a matter of time before someone loses their life. And when that happens, the blame will fall on the elephant. Pressure will mount to label it a "dangerous" animal, capture it, and send it to a camp. From there, its fate would likely be to perform tricks for tourists — saluting VIPs and accepting bananas from visitors — instead of roaming free in the wild where it belongs.

Some may argue that drivers and visitors engage in such behaviour out of ignorance. But we often overlook the signboards installed by the forest department clearly warning people not to feed wild animals. Even when we notice them, many choose to ignore the instructions — a troubling human trait. What's worse, this harmful practice of feeding wildlife is sometimes justified even by environmentalists and animal lovers. Unfortunately, they fail to realise that such misplaced "compassion" can eventually become a noose around the very animal's neck.

Sadly, misguided "compassion" doesn't end there. In another incident inside Bandipur, a KSRTC bus driver honked loudly to chase away a pack of wild dogs (dholes) hunting a sambar deer near the highway. Disturbed by the noise, both predator and prey scattered. But the driver and a few others went further, shouting and even pelting a stone at the wild dogs to "save" the deer. Ironically, the wild dogs were only doing what nature intended them to do — hunt to survive.

Similarly, during summers, environmentalists and animal lovers often promote providing water artificially to wild animals. But if that is considered compassion, should we also extend the same to every tree, shrub, and herb in the forest? After all, plants provide food, shelter, and countless benefits to wildlife. Should we then install sprinklers or drip irrigation systems across entire forests to keep them green?

What we often overlook is that artificially providing resources to wild animals can unnaturally inflate their populations, even though their habitats are not being expanded. This is particularly true for species like elephants, which have no natural predators — apart from the rare instance of a calf being taken by a tiger. Natural challenges such as water or food scarcity during harsh summers or the long-distance movements elephants undertake result in some mortality, which is essential for maintaining population balance. Rather than interfering with these natural processes, our efforts should focus on securing habitats and protecting wildlife from threats such as poaching.

Wildlife conservation is already a complex challenge, and these misplaced acts of kindness make it even harder. Fuelled by WhatsApp forwards and social media "experts", people often demand interventions that ignore ecological realities. For instance, when wild animals are injured naturally, there is pressure to treat them — forgetting that natural deaths are part of the ecosystem. Carcasses sustain vultures, hyenas, jackals, insects, and countless others. By interfering in every natural process, we risk destabilising entire food webs.

True compassion for wildlife does not lie in feeding them or "rescuing" them from natural events. It lies in respecting their autonomy and ensuring they have safe habitats to live in. Unlike our pet dogs or cats, wild animals are part of a larger ecological balance that humans cannot replicate.

Compassion towards animals is one of the noblest human traits. But when applied wrongly, it becomes a curse for wildlife. The best compassion we can offer elephants, wild dogs, and every other species is to protect their forests. That is not charity — it is our duty.

(The writer is an active conservationist and scientist)

Tensions between President Trump and Brazil's leader could derail a promising alliance to unlock the world's second largest reserve of the minerals

ANA IONOVA

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Tariffs place US-Brazil rare earth deal on shaky ground

Tucked under layers of clay and rock, Brazil has a bounty that much of the world covets: millions of tons of rare earth minerals needed to build drones and robots, electric cars and guided missiles.

For years Brazil and the United States have quietly discussed how American investment and assistance could help the South American country unlock these vast reserves of rare earths, the world's second largest.

But now, the diplomatic crisis between the Western Hemisphere's two largest nations risks derailing years of US efforts to secure access to Brazilian rare earths.

By loosening China's grip on strategic minerals crucial to the economies and battlefields of the future, both nations stood to gain from such an alliance, according to current Brazilian and former US officials.

American support could help Brazil become a global powerhouse in the extraction and processing of rare earths. And Brazilian rare earths could reduce American dependence on China, which controls about 90% of world supplies — and has shown itself willing to withhold them.

The talks about this alliance, which have not been previously reported, were at an early stage. Then, Brazil's rare earths were suddenly thrust into the bitter trade dispute between the two countries that erupted last month.

Ties between the Brazil and the United States frayed when President Donald Trump targeted the country with 50% tariffs to help his political ally, Jair Bolsonaro, the former Brazilian president, who is facing criminal charges for plotting a coup.

Just before tariffs were imposed on Brazil, the United States signalled that access to Brazil's strategic minerals should be part of trade talks. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva snapped back, accusing the United States of threatening his nation's sovereignty.

"No one lays a hand," Lula said last month, referring to Brazil's critical minerals. "This country belongs to the Brazilian people." Brazilian officials also made clear that they will now seek to explore tapping its rare earth deposits with other allies, like India. "With Brazil, we were pushing an open door," said José Fernandez, a former top official at the State Department. "I don't know if this will backfire, but it certainly will not help."

Brazil is believed to hold between 19% and 23% of global reserves of rare earths, a group of 17 elements needed to make powerful magnets used in a range of products, from electric cars and wind turbines to missiles and fighter jets.

For decades, China, home to 40% of rare earth deposits, has dominated global supply chains of the minerals, which are plentiful in the earth's crust but difficult to extract and separate. The West has mostly left to China the hard work of mining, processing and refining rare earths into magnets imported by the United States and other countries. For some rare earths, China is virtually the only country able to separate and process them.

But other countries have grown wary of China's chokehold. Beijing cut off supplies to Japan in 2010 and is now withholding some critical minerals and magnets from the United States in response to tariffs. To reduce its reliance on China, the Pentagon has poured millions into a Las Vegas-based mining company, MP Materials, becoming its largest shareholder.

Brazil has emerged as perhaps the most promising challenger to China's monopoly. It has reserves of about 21 million tons, though it may be years away from producing significant amounts of the minerals.

"There is still a lot to be explored, to be studied," said Inácio Melo, director-president of the Brazilian Geological Survey. "Brazil has enormous potential."

For now, just one Brazilian mine, partially backed by American investors, is churning out small quantities of minerals, which still have to be shipped to China for processing. But Brazil has ambitious plans to build a domestic supply chain spanning mines, processing plants and magnet factories. Until recently, the US had been helping Brazil inch closer to its goals. Biden administration officials made at least five visits to the country from 2022 to 2024, according to Fernandez, who participated in some of the meetings.

Brazil's main focus in these discussions was securing technical assistance and American investment, Fernandez said. "Brazil was a very willing partner," he added.

During a State Department visit last year, US officials appeared interested in Brazil's first laboratory where rare earths will be made into magnets and its capacity to eventually supply the Pentagon, according to Eduardo Neves, a researcher at the facility who participated in the meeting.

"They wanted information from us about whether we are already selling magnets, how long it will take to produce," he said. "They seemed very interested."

Last year, American and British investors poured $150 million into Brazil's first rare earths mine, Serra Verde, as part of an initiative backed by the US government.

In the months after Trump took office, the top U.S. diplomat in Brazil, *chargé d'affaires* Gabriel Escobar, met with Brazil's mining association to discuss a possible partnership on rare earth minerals, according to Raul Jungmann, the group's president. Then, in July, two weeks after Trump threatening Brazil with high tariffs, Escobar requested another meeting, according to Jungmann.

"The first time, he was more concerned with partnerships," Jungmann said. The second time, the tone was more insistent, he added. "He made the United States' interest in strategic critical minerals very clear, very explicit."

In Brazil, a country sensitive to foreign involvement in its resources, after decades of booms and busts in commodities like rubber and sugar, US interest in rare earths made headlines and triggered anger and suspicion. Then, after the tariffs took effect and negotiations over a trade deal hit a stalemate, some Brazilian officials struck a more conciliatory tone, signalling they were open to putting rare earths on the negotiating table.

Trade talks between Brazil and the United States have since stalled, with Brazil accusing Trump of ignoring its attempts to negotiate and Trump insisting the country drop its case against Bolsonaro, which many in Brazil see as central to safeguarding the nation's democracy.

Last week, tensions escalated when Trump accused Brazil of being a "horrible trading partner." Lula shot back, pointing out that his nation runs a trade deficit with the United States. "We're still willing to negotiate, but Brazil won't kneel before the United States."

Brazil now appears to be forging ahead largely without the United States. It is studying its deposits with the help of a Spanish mapping firm and working toward improving its processing abilities through a public-private partnership backed by more than two dozen companies and research groups from around the world.

"Establishing a supply chain outside of China is quite important for most Western nations right now," said John Prineas, executive chair of Australia-based St. George Mining, which is developing a rare earths project in Brazil's Araxá region. "Brazil has a potentially big role to play there. And we're happy to be a part of it."

The tariffs on Brazil were softened by hundreds of exceptions, but rare earths were notably absent from the list.

That would make American firms reluctant to invest in the country's rare earths, according to Sergio Fontanez, a former government adviser and chair of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, a government export credit agency. "There's an opportunity there for us," Fontanez said. "But what you're essentially creating now," he added, "is an embargo for US companies."

The New York Times

Accepting grief

RAJANI BHAT

'Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine. Meanwhile the world goes on...' -Mary Oliver.

It is hard to believe that merely five years ago the world was reeling with a pandemic that brought death, loss and grief to every village in every country. And yet, we have moved on. The experience of grief is linked to the experience of love and attachment. It is the inevitable outcome of the loss of love. As we move to an individualistic society with urban migration and nuclear families, people suffering loss struggle to find compassionate communities to help them cope with their grief. The pandemic changed the way we bid goodbye to our departed loved ones too. Families and communities forced by circumstance to be strong and resilient still carry the trauma of incomplete farewells, and grieving that was not given the space it deserves.

However, we cannot truly move on from grief, we have to learn to move forward with grief. Ancient and rural societies had elaborate rituals around death which may have helped them cope with loss as a community. Many of these rituals were based on beliefs that are challenged by the day-to-day truths of our lives today. While some people find solace in religious rituals and prayer, others chafe under the expectations of customs that seem incongruous with their current lives. There is no established timeline for recovery from loss, but professional demands often do not allow for adequate time to begin the process of healing. And so, grief remains a wound which doesn't receive attention it requires.

Neuroscientists and psychologists have made strides in understanding how grief changes our brains and its responses to everyday challenges. We now understand that unaddressed and complicated grief contributes to future physical and mental health issues. Elizabeth Kubler Ross, the Swiss American psychiatrist and pioneer of research in the lived experience of patients and families faced with terminal illness gave us some of the earliest frameworks to understand death and dying, grief and grieving. There is more to grief than the five stages of grief initially described – denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. The stages are not universal and do not always happen sequentially. Beyond these stages lies the difficult road of walking through life without a loved one, learning, growing and rediscovering meaning and purpose, with acknowledgement of grief as an integral part of life.

Dame Cicely Saunders, the pioneer of the hospice movement in the late 1960s, said –'The way we die lives on in the memory of those we leave behind.' Decades later, medical science continues to improve health outcomes with newer drug discovery, procedures and technology. People live longer, but not everyone is assured of a better quality of life. More people die in hospitals than ever before, even when their death was anticipated due to a progressive terminal condition. Patients and families need the support of palliative care teams as they face the anticipatory grief of impending loss. The medicalisation of death and pathologisation of grief, amplify the suffering of what should be natural phenomena. Death in an intensive care unit connected to machines is not what anyone would consider a good death. Death distanced from loved ones complicates the recovery of the grieving families. Recent advances in India and Karnataka have made it possible for people to make their advance medical directives to guide their doctors to provide value-aligned medical care at the end of life. This is an important step to empower citizens, patients with progressive illness to have autonomy over their health decisions and choose dignity in death.

It is imperative that we build compassionate healthcare systems that understand that the role of medicine is as much to save the lives of those with treatable conditions as it is to support those whose death is inevitable. In 2025, as a society that has come through the fire of a once-in-a-lifetime health global health crisis, is it too much to ask that every hospital has a palliative care department and every modern ICU has a grief counsellor, psychologist or social worker to support suffering patients and caregivers? The priorities of a healthcare system are guided by the preferences of the communities they serve. It is time for us to prioritise an acceptance of grief as an integral part of healing in society.

The 'Good to go: Death literacy festival', scheduled for this weekend in Bengaluru, will focus on grief and its many aspects, opening space for much-needed conversations.

(The writer is an interventional pulmonologist and palliative medicine practitioner at a Bengaluru hospital)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: AUGUST 1975

Bangla to remain secular

Calcutta, August 21
The Bangla Desh Radio today made it clear that the Constitution of the country had not been abrogated and the fundamental principles of State policy—nationalism, socialism, secularism and democracy—remained unchanged. The broadcast, elaborating on last night's Presidential proclamation defining the powers and functions of the President, said, "The Constitution has not been abrogated and Parliament has not been dissolved". It also highlighted the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Samar Sen's meetings with the new President.

25 YEARS AGO: AUGUST 2000

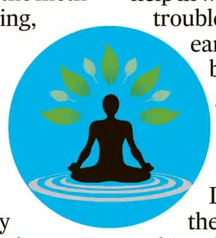
8 states demand efficiency norm for funds allocation

New Delhi, Aug 21
The Chief Ministers' meeting convened by Andhra Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu today asked the Centre to hold an immediate meeting of the National Development Council and evolve a consensus on the controversial recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission (EFC). The Chief Ministers of 'performing states' like Kerala, Punjab, Haryana, Assam, Manipur and the deputy chief minister of Maharashtra and Law Minister of Tamil Nadu attended the meeting.

OASIS | MIRLE KARTHIK

The supreme path of meditation

In concluding the chapter on 'Dhyana Yoga' – the yoga of meditation – the Bhagavad Gita clearly states that among all the different methods of attaining spiritual enlightenment, the method of *dhyana*, or meditation, is the foremost. Lord Krishna speaks in the first person in the last two passages and exhorts the Prince Arjuna to aim to become a 'Yogi' – one who transcends other spiritual paths of austerities, rituals and theoretical knowledge. The Lord does not in any manner decry the importance of these steps in spiritual growth but is only pointing out that controlling the mind by reining in the senses and directing the mental faculties towards the supreme truth that is all-pervasive is the most efficacious method in reaching the goal of spiritual enlightenment. This entire chapter is devoted to the methods of controlling the wavering, fickle mind, disciplining it such that it is not swayed by the external attractions and pulls of the world and focusing all mental activities towards higher spiritual verities. By doing so, the mind becomes steady and ripe to meditate. This entire process is one of gradual ripening and maturity, the qualities seen in all true spiritual luminaries.



Subjecting the body to various punishing and rigorous physical practices does not, in any way, aid in spiritual growth. At best, it may only help in withstanding severe physical troubles. Theoretical knowledge earned through the study of books and treatises will be just that – mere bookish knowledge. This is not to diminish the importance of such knowledge, but the Lord only says here that there is something higher than this to be attained. As for the path of rituals, the Bhagavad Gita uses the evocative term 'Shabdabrahma' – the ritualistic portion of the Vedas – to denote a true Yogi who has absolutely no wants or desires and is therefore not interested in the ritualistic side of spiritual efforts.

"You must transcend all these steps and become a Yogi in the true sense of the term – one who constantly enshrines me in his heart, whose thoughts always flow towards me. Such a one is most dear to me," says the Lord finally. As Swami Chinmayananda says, this unceasing focus on the ultimate truth is true 'Bhajana', leading to negation of the ego and complete self-effacement and total identification with the true 'Self' – the divine consciousness. "Control your mind and shed your ego – this is real meditation," is the message.

JeM launches massive fundraising drive after losses during Op Sindoor

Under the garb of building over 300 mosques to replicate LeT's decentralisation policy

JAMMU, PTI

After suffering severe setbacks during Operation Sindoor, Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror outfit has launched a massive fundraising drive there under the garb of building over 300 mosques to replicate Lashkar-e-Taiba's decentralisation policy, security officials said.

The JeM has come out with a new mechanism with the support of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to collect funds. It is using digital wallets like 'EasyPaisa' and 'Sadapay' controlled by its founder and most wanted terrorist Masood Azhar's family members to bypass scrutiny by global agencies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the officials said, citing inputs from across the border.

The Rs 3.91 billion fundraising drive would secure JeM's operational and weapons financing for at least a decade, they said.

Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in the early hours of May 7 in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack. The officials said the JeM's headquarters 'Markaz Subhanallah', along with four other training camps—Markaz Bilal, Markaz Abbas, Mahmona Joya, and the Sargal training camp—were destroyed during the Operation Sindoor.

While Pakistan's government has announced funding to rebuild these destroyed facilities, the JeM has launched an online fundraising campaign through digital wallets to collect Rs 3.91 billion for constructing 313 new markaz buildings under the garb of constructing mosques across Pakistan, the officials said.

On social media platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp, JeM-linked proxy accounts and those used by JeM commanders have posted posters, videos, and a letter from Masood Azhar, urging supporters to donate wholeheartedly as each mosque requires Rs 1.25 crore for construction, they said.

According to the officials, several of the digital wallet accounts were found linked to the mobile number of Azhar's brother, Talha Al Saif (Talha Gulzar) and JeM Haripur district commander Aftab Ahmad, based in Khala Batt Township.

Instead of donations going into bank accounts, the money is being transferred to the digital wallets used by Azhar's family members, the officials said.

MLA booked for abduction, assault of forest officials in AP

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Andhra Pradesh police have filed a case against ruling party legislator Budda Rajasekhara Reddy and his aide for allegedly abducting and assaulting Forest Department officials near Srisailam in Nandyal district.

The TDP's Srisailam MLA is accused of abducting four forest officials and verbally abusing them, claiming the staff were not cooperating with him despite his party being in power. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed police to register a case against the MLA after taking a serious view of the incident.

Srisailam Town police booked Rajasekhara Reddy and his associate, Ashok Routh, under Sections 115(2), 127(2), 351(2), and 132 read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Routh was listed as the first accused and the MLA as the second.

According to the FIR, the incident took place on August 19 around 9.30 pm at the Shikaram check post in Srisailam village. The complaint states Routh and Reddy beat Karimullah, a driver with the Forest Range Officer's office, threatened him with dire consequences, and wrongfully confined him. The case was reported the next evening.

At the time of the incident, Deputy Forest Officer Ram Naik of the Nekkanti Range, beat officers Guruvaiah and Mohan Kumar, and driver Karimullah were on patrol in response to recent leopard sightings. Police said the MLA and his followers obstructed the patrol vehicle, accused the staff of not working in their favour, and began abusing them.

T'gana Guv's intervention sought over anti-Marwadi campaign

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Akhil Bharatiya Agarwal Mahasabha has approached Telangana Governor Jishnudev Verma and expressed serious concerns about the ongoing "Marwadi go back" campaign.

The organisation warned that such rhetoric could severely damage investor confidence and undermine Telangana's reputation as a business-friendly destination, potentially resulting in capital flight and job losses.

In a letter to the Governor, the organisation's Telangana president Mahesh Agarwal highlighted the risk of these inflammatory campaigns escalating into violence, threatening innocent citizens' safety and security. The organisation made several specific requests: For starters, they said they wanted the Governor to issue a strong public statement condemning this hate campaign and reassuring all communities of their safety and rights in Telangana.

They also urged him to direct the director general of police and law-enforcement agencies to take swift legal action against individuals or groups promoting such hateful rhetoric—whether online or offline.

'Neighbours, friends'

"The Marwadi community has been an inseparable part of Telangana's history and culture for generations, even predating the formation of the state. They are not outsiders; they are our neighbours, our friends, our business partners, and our fellow Telanganites," said Agarwal.

"For centuries, they have contributed immensely to the state's economy, driving commerce, creating employment, and playing a pivotal role in making cities like Hyderabad a thriving economic powerhouse. Their contributions extend beyond business into philanthropy, with countless educational institutions, hospitals, and charitable trusts established and supported by them, serving all sections of society irrespective of their background," he added.

He claimed this so-called "movement" was based on a foundation of prejudice, misinformation, and xenophobia. It was unconstitutional and antithetical to the very spirit of India.

UP man wanted wife to look like Nora Fatehi; forced workouts, denied food

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A woman in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad town lodged a police complaint alleging that she was forced to exercise for hours, kept without food for days, as her husband wanted her to have a figure like Bollywood actor Nora Fatehi.

The 26-year-old woman, in her complaint, stated that she was pressured to exercise for two to three hours every day.

"I was not given food for many days if, at times, I could not do exercise owing to health reasons," she said.

She said that her husband was a physical education teacher. "My husband used to often tell me that my figure was not good and that he wanted a wife with a figure like Nora Fatehi," the woman said in her complaint.

They got married in March this year.

She also said that she faced torture at the hands of her in-laws and even aborted owing to physical and mental torture.

The woman said she was not allowed to enter the house after returning from her parental home in July. She demanded stern action against her husband and in-laws.

Police said a case under different sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was filed, and the matter was being investigated.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

MR. B. INVITED US OVER TO WATCH THE BALL GAME WITH HIM
COME ON IN
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE GAME SO FAR?
TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, MR. B., WE'RE ACTUALLY HERE FOR THE SNACKS!
BURP!

Hagar The Horrible

BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT, DO ONE MORE THING!
I ALREADY FIXED THE TABLE LEG, PATCHED THE WALL CRACKS AND WALKED THE DOG!
TRY THESE FRESH-BAKED CUPCAKES!
OK! JUST ONE MORE THING!

Beetle Bailey

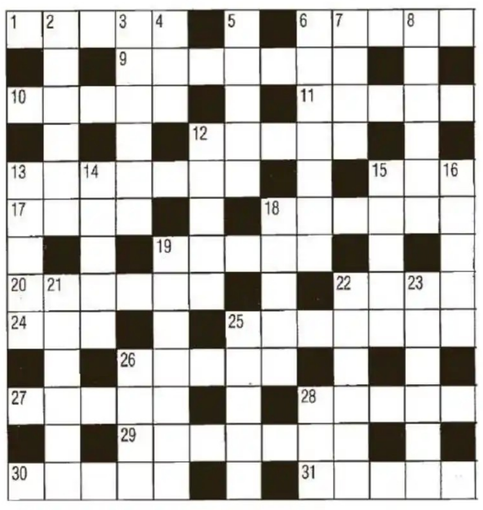
Peanuts

GOOD NIGHT, MEN! SLEEP TIGHT...
CALL ME IF YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE DURING THE NIGHT
LIKE MAYBE A PYTHON CRAWLING INTO YOUR SLEEPING BAG!
WHY DO I SAY THINGS LIKE THAT?

Marvin

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I BUILT MARVIN'S OLD STROLLER?
YES. I'M STILL TRYING TO TEACH MARVIN TO STOP USING SOME OF THE WORDS HE LEARNED FROM YOU THAT DAY

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12231



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Home is just a step round the corner (5)
6 You couldn't use it as a club (or could you?) (5)
9 It's nasty when there's a lot to get out of the way (7)
10 Animal chewing oats when finishing breakfast (5)
11 They sustain distracted males (5)
12 A pram manufacturing city (5)
13 Lars, upset about a woman having more than a few (7)
15 One of many (3)
17 Run in strict rotation (4)
18 Agrees to change the lubricant (6)
19 Like a cold stare from Rocky (5)
20 It has foreign money, note (6)
22 Area redeveloped in the late twenties (4)
24 River in the south of Alaska (3)
25 A game lover always has half an hour for a friend (7)
26 It takes off and levels out (5)
27 What you need to get somewhere fast (5)
28 Part of the arterial network (5)
29 Narrating in an effective way (7)
30 Like an extra that seems dead wrong to many (5)
31 Frighten deer going around the outback (5)

DOWN
2 Scatter around the bed? (6)
3 Swiss cottage (6)
4 Supply the inner man (3)
5 Some allegations, strange but legitimate (5)
6 In brief, a woman given money (7)
7 The appeal of a quiet river (4)
8 In Texas, figure everybody to have a bit of cash (6)
12 Stick to good glass (5)
13 It's difficult being strictly formal (5)
14 Like sound cords (5)
15 She takes me out for fresh air (5)
16 It's infinitely discouraging (5)
18 As a garden decorator, he's fabulous! (5)
19 Reproved a skinhead for biting a fellow! (7)
21 Knocked for having used a popular vocal style (6)
22 Secondary player who maybe gets out for a duck again (6)
23 A mocked creature (6)
25 It's just over a foot (5)
26 Pursued by a Red, he ran out (4)
28 Also puts point into publicity (3)

ACROSS
1 Roost (5)
6 Vagrant (5)
9 Joy (7)
10 Unit of gem weight (5)
11 Corner (5)
12 Jumped (5)
13 Considerate (7)
15 Swampy land (3)
17 Beers (4)
18 Wish (6)
19 Stiff (5)
20 Was jealous (6)
22 Lake (4)
24 Female deer (3)
25 Final game (7)
26 Happen (5)
27 Intended (5)
28 Relatives (5)
29 Dense (7)
30 Guide (5)
31 Toy bear (5)

DOWN
2 Tooth covering (6)
3 Muscular pains (6)
4 Headwear item (3)
5 Alloy (5)
6 Snared (7)
7 Tear (4)
8 Flour producer (6)
12 Sensational (5)
13 Detested (5)
14 Depart (5)
15 Sacked (5)
16 At no time (5)
18 Frogman (5)
19 Nuclear generator (7)
21 Books (6)
22 Tiny (6)
23 Relaxed (6)
25 Discards (5)
26 Formerly (4)
28 Perform (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12230

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Old man 7, Bar-bar-ic 8, C-offer 10, AM-use 13, Buff 14,Test 15, Serf 16, Due 17, Alas 19, Edie 21, Plastered 23, Pulp 24, Base 26, Cut 27, Poor 29, Dr.-AB 32, Very 33, Aside 34, CI-cad-A 35,Tapes-try 36,The eye.
DOWN: 1, U-boat 2, Ar-Gus 3, Mare 4, O-CC-ur 5, Duff 6, Aven-U-e 9, Of-fers 11, Men 12, Stall 13, Best boy 15, SAS 16, Did (rev.) 18, La-ppe-d 20, D-eeds 21, Put 22, Ear 23, Punish 25, Cad 28, Orate 30, Rifts 31, Beryl 32, Vase 33, A-men.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Fickle 7, Abnormal 8, Awaits 10, Among 13, Crew 14, Data 15, Area 16, New 17, Spry 19, Stir 21, Cartwheel 23, Halo 24, Oils 26, Hat 27, Bolt 29,Trip 32, Deaf 33, Osier 34, Assess 35,Tarragon 36, Versus.
DOWN: 1, Salad 2, Ingot 3, Frog 4, Flare 5, Claw 6, Latter 9, Weasel 11, Map 12, Nasal 13, Cry wolf 15, Art 16, Nil 18, Probes 20,Tests 21, Cat 22, Hit 23, Hassle 25, Die 28, Oasts 30, Rings 31, Prank 32, Dens 33, Oars.

◆SU-DO-KU-6682◆

9		7	8			6	5	
								3
	3	1				7		
	5			3	8		6	
		4				5		
	8		9	4			1	
		5				8	9	
2								
	7	3			9	1		5

hard

SOLUTION TO 6681

3	2	1	6	7	9	4	8	5
7	8	4	1	5	3	9	2	6
9	5	6	2	4	8	7	1	3
8	6	7	9	1	2	3	5	4
4	1	9	8	3	5	6	7	2
5	3	2	7	6	4	8	9	1
2	7	5	4	9	6	1	3	8
1	4	3	5	8	7	2	6	9
6	9	8	3	2	1	5	4	7

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2024 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

O1 E1 E1 L1 R1 P3 X8 — Triple Word Score — RACK 1

K5 O1 E1 P3 M3 S1 O1 — Triple Word Score — RACK 2

A1 A1 E1 F4 T1 S1 N1 — RACK 3

M3 T1 T1 L1 U1 U1 T1 — 1st Letter Double — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 135-145
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

R1 H4 O1 M3 B3 U1 S1 — RACK 1 = 72
C3 O1 R1 D2 I1 A1 L1 — RACK 2 = 80
A1 C3 A1 U1 D2 A1 L1 — RACK 3 = 70
C3 A1 R1 T1 E1 L1 S1 — RACK 4 = 59
JUDD'S TOTAL 281

PAR SCORE 185-195

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CEANT
SAEEC
LEAIGO
MDOOIN

Hey there! What brings you to our little part of the world?
I just need some alone time. It's gotten so crowded at home.
I can't believe you found us. Stay as long as you need to.
THE PENGUINS ENJOY LIVING ON THE LEAST-POPULATED CONTINENT BECAUSE OF THE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"___ - _____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOUSE SWEET FUMBLE JOVIAL
Answer: They were looking for an affordable home, but the first one they saw didn't — "ABODE" WELL

HITORI-3136

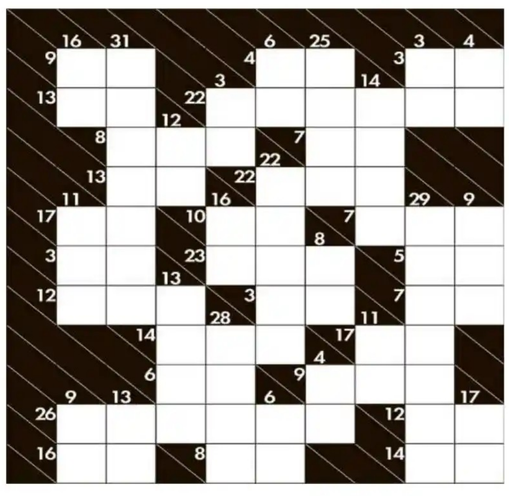
2	5	7	5	8	3	5	5
7	2	4	8	5	6	5	5
3	5	1	7	6	4	2	8
5	1	2	1	5	5	6	7
5	5	8	1	2	7	5	3
1	7	5	4	4	5	3	6
4	1	3	5	7	8	5	2
6	5	5	2	1	1	8	5

SOLUTION TO 3135

7	■	3	1	6	■	4	2
2	7	■	6	4	5	■	3
6	8	2	4	■	3	5	1
1	■	4	■	2	6	3	■
3	6	■	2	1	■	7	8
■	5	7	■	3	2	■	4
5	2	■	3	8	7	6	■
■	3	6	■	7	4	1	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3136



SOLUTION TO 3135

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3654

	5				9			
			1		3	5		
2		4					3	1
	6							
1								
	7			1		2		
	3			9				
							5	
6	4	8						9

SOLUTION TO 3653

4	7	3	6	5	9	1	2	8
8	6	2	3	4	1	5	9	7
5	1	9	7	8	2	4	6	3
1	8	5	2	9	6	7	3	4
3	2	6	4	7	8	9	5	1
9	4	7	5	1	3	2	8	6
6	5	1	9	3	7	8	4	2
7	3	4	8	2	5	6	1	9
2	9	8	1	6	4	3	7	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

BORDER CONTROL

Indian student visas for UK decline, immigration detentions double

Work visa grants drop 48% amid tighter migration rules

LONDON, PTI

Indians granted visas to study at UK universities continued a downward trend, with the majority of Indian students opting for post-graduate level qualifications, according to the latest Home Office statistics released on Thursday.

Indian students at 98,014 visa grants in the year ending June 2025 were a close second to Chinese visa grants for the same period at 99,919. However, both nationalities registered a fall in overall numbers compared to last year, of 11% and 7% respectively.

"The trend in sponsored study visas in recent years has been mainly driven by those coming to study for a Master's... In the year ending March 2025, four out of five (81%) Indian students came to the UK to study for a Master's level qualification, compared to just over half (59%) of Chinese students," the Home Office states.

New figures released to highlight the numbers detained as part of a wider crackdown on illegal immigration claimed that Indian nationals in detention have almost doubled in the past year. "Albanians have been the most common nationality entering detention since 2022, but their numbers have been falling; numbers of Brazilian and Indian nationals have both doubled in the last year (up 91% and 108% respectively)," the Home Office claimed.

According to its data, 2,715 Indians were logged as being in detention under the UK's immigration law breach, with a majority of them released on bail. The latest UK government statistics also revealed that 111,000 people had claimed asylum in the UK in the year ending in June 2025, the highest figure since comparable records began in 1979.

The asylum issue has been in sharp focus in recent weeks as the Home Office lost a major legal battle over housing asylum seekers in hotels and Opposition parties putting pressure on the government to speed up deportations.

The total number of immigrants, using legal and illegal routes, registered a fall of 30% compared to the previous 12 months mostly down to a decrease in the number of work visas issued, a category dominated by Indians over the years. "We are bringing legal migration back under control, with a 48% reduction in work visas this year – and further stronger visa controls and higher skill requirements introduced through our White Paper expected to bring those overall numbers down further," said UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper. The University of Oxford based Migration Observatory analysed the Home Office data on asylum claims to flag that claims from study or work visa holders had been on the rise since Brexit five years ago.

Pakistanis and Bangladeshis topped the charts of claimants previously arriving in the UK on a valid visa, with Indians ranked sixth under this category. "There are several potential explanations for recent increases in asylum applications... They include the intensification of smuggling activity, larger numbers of people claiming asylum after arriving on visas, a larger number of pending and recently refused asylum seekers in Europe," said Dr Madeleine Sumption, director of the Migration Observatory.

Woman on FBI's 'Top 10 Most Wanted' list arrested in India

NEW YORK, PTI: A woman on the FBI's '10 Most Wanted Fugitive' list was arrested in India on charges of killing her six-year-old son, according to officials.

The arrest of Cindy Rodriguez Singh, 40, was the fourth "Top 10 Most Wanted" capture in seven months, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Kash Patel said in an X post on Wednesday.

He credited law enforcement partners in Texas, the US Justice Department, and authorities in India for their coordination leading to Singh's arrest, who was wanted on state charges of killing her son.

She fled the US in 2023 to evade prosecution. The FBI had offered a reward of up to $250,000 for information that could lead to her arrest.

Singh was arrested in India by the FBI, in coordination with Indian authorities and Interpol. She has been transported to the US and will be turned over to Texas authorities, Fox News said.

In March 2023, authorities in Texas conducted a welfare check for Singh's special needs son Noel Rodriguez-Alvarez, who had not been seen since October 2022. Singh allegedly lied about his whereabouts, indicating that the child was in Mexico with his biological father and had been there since November 2022.

Russia hammers Ukraine as peace efforts drag on

Putin launches one of the biggest aerial attacks with missiles and drones

KYIV, AP/PTI

Smoke rises over buildings after a Russian air attack in Mukachevo, Zakarpattia region of Ukraine, on Thursday. AFP

Russia launched one of its biggest aerial attacks of the year on Ukraine, firing 574 drones and 40 ballistic and cruise missiles overnight, the Ukrainian Air Force said Thursday, while a recent diplomatic push to stop the three-year war is trying to gain momentum.

The attack mostly targeted western regions of the country, the air force said, where much of the military aid provided by Ukraine's Western allies is believed to be delivered and stored. The strikes killed at least one person and injured 15 others, according to officials.

It was Russia's third-largest aerial attack this year in terms of the number of drones fired and the eighth-largest in terms of missiles, according to official figures. Most such Russian attacks have hit civilian areas.

The strikes occurred during a renewed US-led effort to reach a peace settlement following Russia's February 2022 invasion of its neighbour. US President Donald Trump discussed the war with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska last week, and at the start of this week hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders at the White House.

Russia has fired nearly 1,000 long-range drones and missiles at Ukraine since the White House talks. Ukraine and European leaders have accused Putin of stalling in ongoing peace efforts, including Ukraine's proposal of a ceasefire and Zelenskyy's offer to sit down with the Russian leader. Zelenskyy condemned the overnight attack, saying it was carried out "as if nothing were changing at all."

Russia's Defence Ministry said the strikes targeted "enterprises of the Ukrainian military-industrial complex." It claimed the attack hit drone factories, storage depots and missile launch sites, as well as areas where Ukrainian troops were gathered. Moscow has shown no signs of pursuing meaningful negotiations to end the war, Zelenskyy said. He urged the international community to respond with stronger pressure on Moscow, including tougher sanctions and tariffs.

WAR OPTIONS

- Military chiefs from the US and European countries have finalised military options on Ukraine and will now present them to their respective national security advisers, the US military said on Thursday.
- Russia's nuclear shield should be strengthened in the coming years due to the "colossal threats" facing the world's biggest nuclear power, head of the state-run nuclear corporation said on Thursday.

Uganda inks deal with US to take migrants

KAMPALA (UGANDA), AP/PTI: Uganda has agreed to a deal with the United States to take deported migrants on condition that the deportees should not have criminal records and not be unaccompanied minors, officials said Thursday.

The Ugandan foreign affairs ministry, in a statement, said the "two parties are working out the detailed modalities on how the agreement shall be implemented."

Uganda also expressed a preference that those brought into the country should be of African nationalities.

It was not clear if the agreement had been signed, but the ministry statement said it had been "concluded."

International Relations Minister Henry Okello Oryem told The Associated Press that while Uganda is known globally for its benevolent refugee policy, there are limits.

And he questioned why the country would take people rejected by their own countries. "We are talking about cartels: people who are unwanted in their own countries. How can we integrate them into local communities in Uganda?" he asked. He said the government was in discussions about "visas, tariffs, sanctions, and related issues, not accepting illegal aliens from the US. That would be unfair to Ugandans."

Israel pounds Gaza City under new military plan

GAZA CITY, AFP

A man inspects the damage at the site of an Israeli strike on a tent camp in Deir Al-Balah, Gaza Strip, on Thursday. REUTERS

Israel hammered Gaza City and its outskirts overnight, residents said on Thursday, as the military announced it had taken initial steps in its push to capture Hamas's last major stronghold.

The newly approved plan authorises the call-up of 60,000 reservists, deepening fears the campaign will worsen the already catastrophic humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. "We are not waiting. We have begun the preliminary actions, and already now, IDF (army) troops are holding the outskirts of Gaza City," said the Israeli military.

PM to approve takeover

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday that he will give final approval for takeover of Gaza City while also restarting negotiations with Hamas aimed at returning all of Israel's remaining hostages and ending the war on Israel's terms.

Israel's plans to expand the fighting and seize Gaza City have sparked international outcry as well as domestic opposition. The Red Cross became the latest voice to condemn the plan on Thursday, calling it "intolerable".

Ahead of the offensive, the Israeli military said the call-up of the reservists would begin in early September, adding the second phase of operation "Gideon's Chariots" had begun. Gaza City residents described relentless bombardments overnight. "The house shakes with us all night long — the sound of explosions, artillery, warplanes, ambulances, and cries for help is killing us," one of them, Ahmad al-Shanti, told AFP.

Court tosses $500 mn fraud fine against Trump

NEW YORK, AFP: A US court threw out a $464 million civil penalty against President Donald Trump imposed by a judge who found he fraudulently inflated his personal worth, calling the sum "excessive" but upholding the judgment against him.

Judge Arthur Engoron ruled against Trump in February 2024 at the height of his campaign to retake the White House, which coincided with several active criminal prosecutions that the Republican slammed as "lawfare."

"It was a political witch hunt, in a business sense, the likes of which no one has ever seen before," Trump said on Thursday. When Engoron originally ruled against Trump, he ordered the mogul-turned-politician to pay $464 million, including interest, while his sons Eric and Don Jr were told to hand over $4 million each.

Indian envoy meets prominent US lawmakers amid strain in ties

WASHINGTON, PTI: Indian envoy Vinay Mohan Kwatra on Thursday met with prominent US lawmakers amid a strain in relations between Washington and New Delhi after President Donald Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods.

Kwatra met Representative Darrell Issa, Chairman of the House Judiciary GOP Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, AI and the Internet, and discussed key elements in the US-India ties, "including our partnership in energy security and mutually beneficial trade engagement".

Kwatra, in a social media post, said he was grateful for Issa's steadfast support to the India-US ties as Vice-Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Majority. The Indian ambassador also had an "engaging conversation" with Representative Adam Smith, Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Democrats.

Kwatra said he discussed India's perspectives on advancing mutual trade, energy and defence cooperation between the two countries. In a separate meeting with Senator John Cornyn, Co-Chair of India Caucus in the US Senate, the envoy discussed issues of mutual interest and highlighted the importance of bilateral trade engagement.

"We also discussed enhancing bilateral cooperation further in hydrocarbons, particularly between Texas and India," Kwatra posted on X.

On Wednesday, the Indian envoy met Congressman Andy Barr, Chairman of House Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy of Financial Services GOP, and discussed the possibilities of enhancing bilateral trade and investment partnership.

Kwatra also thanked him for his leadership and consistent support for the relationship as Vice-Co-Chair of India Caucus in the House of Representatives. In the last few days, the Indian ambassador to the US has held a series of meetings with US Congressmen Warren Davidson, Marc Veasey and Michael Baumgartner.

Pak SC grants bail to Imran in May 9 violence cases

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday granted bail to incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan in eight cases related to the May 9 violence.

Khan's supporters resorted to violence on May 9, 2023, after he was detained by law enforcement authorities in Islamabad. Several cases were launched against Khan and leaders of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for their alleged role in the riots.

Khan's PTI hailed the ruling, using the hashtag "Victory For Imran Khan" in its post on X, while his international spokesman Zulfiqar Bukhari said the party supremo now needed bail in just one case.

"Now bail is needed for just one more case (Al Qadir case) for Mr Khan to come out of jail," he said.

WELCOME GESTURE

Berlin courts tourists as European cities tire of crowds

BERLIN, REUTERS

As many southern European cities grow tired of tourists, Berlin is pitching itself as an antidote to the crowds, blistering heatwaves and anti-tourism protests causing problems elsewhere.

The German capital is promoting its cutting-edge art scene, Prussian palaces and famed techno clubs to boost a tourism sector that has lagged behind the post-pandemic boom seen in other parts of Europe. "We really don't have a problem with overtourism," said Christian Taenzler, spokesperson for the VisitBerlin tourism board. "The city is large and people spread out. Especially in summer, when Berliners are away, there's quite a lot of space."

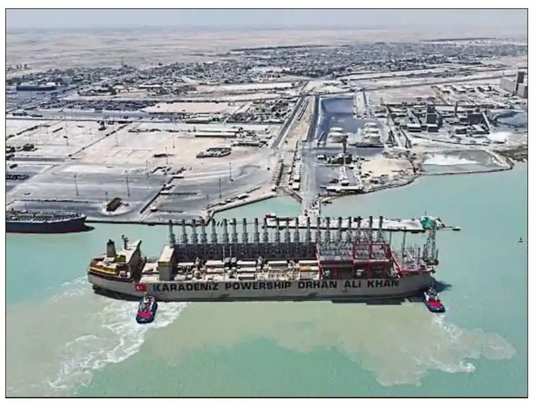
Berlin — home to about 4 million people — drew 5.9 million visitors in the first half of the year, accounting for 13.9 million overnight stays. That marks a fall of 1.8% and 2.9% respectively from a year earlier.

Hotel occupancy averaged 52.8% during the same period, lagging Madrid's 65% and 79% in Paris, cities where tourism has rebounded more quickly since the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, before the pandemic, Berlin drew nearly 14 million tourists, with 34 million overnight stays. Tourism generated 4.6% of Berlin's output in 2023, including indirect effects, according to the estimates of a DIW Econ study.

In comparison, tourism accounts for roughly 14% of the local economy in Paris and Rome, and 8% in Madrid, and Berlin is more reliant on cost-conscious German travellers.

WORLD AT A GLANCE



Karadeniz Powership Orhan Ali Khan, a floating power plant, docks at the port of Umm Qasr in Iraq on Thursday. Karpowership will supply Iraq with 590 megawatts of electricity for 71 days. REUTERS

'Nicest' judge Caprio, viral for his courtroom compassion, dies

Frank Caprio

▸ Frank Caprio, a US judge who became an internet sensation for his compassion and courteous demeanour in court, has died at 88, his family announced on social media, AFP reports from Washington.

The retired Rhode Island judge, who served on the bench for nearly four decades before retiring in 2023, became known for his lenient approach to minor infractions. "It is with profound sadness that I share the news that my father Judge Frank Caprio passed away today, peacefully surrounded by family and friends after a long and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer," his son David Caprio said in a video posted on the judge's Instagram account Wednesday. His family said in a statement that he was "beloved around the world for his deep compassion, humility, and unwavering faith in the goodness of people", and an "example of humanity". Caprio had posted a video on Tuesday from his hospital bed asking for prayers after suffering a health "setback."

'Solve Lipulekh issue with India'

▸ Nepalese lawmakers on Thursday urged the government to diplomatically resolve the issue of trade between India and China through Lipulekh pass, which it claims as its own territory, PTI reports from Kathmandu.

India and China on Tuesday agreed to resume border trade through Lipulekh pass and two other trading points. The Nepalese foreign ministry on Wednesday objected to the move saying the territory is an inseparable part of Nepal. India categorically rejected Kathmandu's claims on the territory which it said are "neither justified nor based on historical facts and evidence".

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives at Lhasa in Tibet Autonomous Region on Wednesday. AP/PTI

Xi attends Tibet's anniversary

▸ Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday attended the 60th founding anniversary celebrations of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) at the Potala Palace square in Tibet's provincial capital Lhasa, PTI reports from Beijing.

Xi joined around 20,000 local officials and people from several ethnic groups and walks of life in the celebration, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Potala Palace was the traditional winter residence of the Dalai Lamas - Tibetan spiritual leaders - and served as the centre of political and spiritual authority in Tibet for centuries. The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) was officially established by China in 1965 after it annexed the region in 1950. China calls Tibet Xizang. The Dalai Lama, along with a large group of Tibetans fled to India in 1959 and has lived in Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala ever since.

Chinese ships trigger SCS tension

▸ China has deployed a coast guard ship and other vessels close to a long-grounded Philippine warship in a disputed South China Sea shoal where Filipino forces have been put on alert, AP/PTI reports from Manila.

The Philippine military said on Thursday that at least 14 Chinese coast guard and suspected militia ships, some with high-calibre weapons and backed up by a helicopter and an unmanned drone, were being monitored around the BRP Sierra Madre in the Second Thomas shoal. The Chinese forces were spotted on Wednesday and were still in the vicinity on Thursday. Two boatloads of Filipino forces were deployed from the Sierra Madre to prevent the Chinese from coming closer, officials said.

An AI-reconstructed image shows a mixed Neanderthal-Homo Sapiens family. The image is based on research conducted by an Israeli-French team on a prehistoric child's skull, believed to be the world's earliest known human fossil. REUTERS

GST reforms may bring down housing prices marginally

Developers expect cost of construction to come down by 2-3%

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The proposed GST reforms are likely to bring modest reduction in housing prices. For affordable housing, which is currently taxed at 1%, the reduction would be limited though lower input costs - especially if input tax credits (ITC) are restored – can lower prices of affordable and mid-segment houses by up to 2-4%, according to experts and industry executives.

"In the luxury homes segment, we could at best expect nuanced changes because while input costs may reduce, the luxury items used in such projects may be subject to the highest 40% rate, thus reducing the potential for price reductions," said Prashant Thakur, Executive Director, Anarock Group.

The expectation of a reduction in GST on cement, steel, tiles and other key construction materials is both welcome and positive. Cement in particular has long been a focus of industry requests, said Pankaj Bajaj, CFO, Assetz, a Bengaluru-based realty firm.

"While the impact on overall construction costs may only reduce marginally by 2–3% — not enough to materially bring down home prices—it will ease the working capital burden of contractors and developers, and act as a morale booster that could also spur infrastructure development. For home buyers, GST on housing sales is already at 5% and 1%, and therefore no further reduction is expected in this category, he said.

With reduced input costs, developers gain the flexibility to compress overall project pricing and pass on benefits to homebuyers, particularly in the under-construction housing segment where GST is levied, said Mahesh Khaitan, Director, Sattva Group, another Bengaluru realtor.

Anil R G, Managing Director, Concorde, said, significant cost reduction will happen as GST on cement at present is 28%, steel is 18% and all major raw materials are around 18%. Any reduction will hedge in balancing raw material price inflation and also help in better product delivery.

Priyanka Raju, Director, Kalyani Developers believes the GST rate cut will help bring greater stability to construction costs and provide developers with more flexibility in project planning. In the long run, such reforms strengthen the overall ecosystem and create an environment that supports both developers and homebuyers.

Mallanna Sasalu, CEO-South, Puravankara Limited, said, "A cut in GST on cement (currently 28%) and steel (18%) directly lowers construction costs by 1.5-2%, though the exact impact will vary by project scale, location, and segment. Even this moderation helps developers create more value for homebuyers and supports affordability.

Most purchase decisions are driven by long-term needs, not short-term tax changes. With low interest rates, rising incomes, and strong end-user demand, sales momentum is likely to continue, he added.

Jayant B Manmadkar, CFO, Brigade Enterprises Ltd, said raw materials constitute a significant portion of the overall construction cost, and the proposed reduction from 28% to 18% in GST can lower input cost expenses. The resultant cost efficiency will therefore enhance project viability and allows developers to execute projects efficiently, especially in under-construction projects.

"The benefit is expected to be anywhere between 1-3% for customers, depending upon the segment of the project and specifications," he added.

Wipro buys Harman's DTS arm for over Rs 3,200 cr

The American company has 5,600 employees across 14 countries

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru-based IT services firm Wipro has acquired Harman's (a Samsung Company) digital transformation solutions (DTS) business unit for about Rs 3,272 crore ($375 million).

Headquartered in Connecticut, USA, DTS is a global provider of engineering research and development (ER&D) services (comprising embedded software, digital engineering, design thinking, device engineering etc.) and IT services to the industrial, consumer, hi-tech (communication and software), and healthcare & lifesciences sectors. It has over 5,600 employees in 14 countries (including India, the US, South Korea, the UK, Poland, and Germany), and they will transition to Wipro upon closing of the transaction. The acquisition is expected to close by the end of this year.

The acquisition expands Wipro's ER&D service offerings and capabilities by enhancing its AI-powered digital engineering and device engineering—including design-to-manufacturing - across technology, industrial, aerospace, healthcare, and consumer industries.

"Welcoming DTS into the Wipro family marks a pivotal step in our transformation journey," said Srini Pallia, CEO and Managing Director of Wipro Limited. "Their specialised engineering expertise, combined with Wipro's consulting-led, AI-powered capabilities, will significantly enhance the value we deliver to clients. DTS' strong presence in high-growth sectors and strategic markets complements our global footprint and strengthens our position as a trusted transformation partner. Together, we'll accelerate digital innovation, reduce time-to-market, and sharpen competitive advantage," he added.

As part of the acquisition, Wipro will enter into a multi-year strategic agreement with Harman and Samsung, and upon completion of the acquisition, DTS will be integrated into Wipro's Engineering Global Business Line.

"The acquisition of DTS marks a pivotal step in Wipro's ambition to bring to our clients end-to-end, AI-powered engineering services," said Srikumar Rao, Managing Partner and Global Head of Engineering at Wipro Limited.

"Together, Wipro and DTS will enable clients to seamlessly connect the virtual and physical worlds, embed AI across the full spectrum of engineering, and unlock scalable innovation. This move strengthens our software-defined, platform-centric approach, and empowers us to deliver larger, more complex transformation programs across high-growth sectors including hi-tech, consumer, industrial, healthcare, and aerospace," he added.

DTS' consolidated revenue for the last 3 completed years (for the period ended December 31) stood at $ 315 million (CY22), $ 308.2 million (CY23) and $ 314.5 million (CY24). For CY24, about 85% of revenue would be services and 15% would be product, Wipro said in a BSE filing.

India's exports to remain stable regardless of US trade deals: BMI

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's exports are likely to remain stable in the current financial year regardless of the outcome of the tariff negotiations with the United States, BMI, a unit of Fitch Group, said on Thursday.

"If, as we expect, a favourable deal is struck with the US, there should not be much tariff disruption to trade. If the talks fall through and indeed, the risks of such an outcome are rising, then we would expect some frontloading ahead of tariffs being hiked," it said.

"Either way, there does not seem to be much downside for goods trade in 2025-26 at least," BMI added.

The research agency noted that there has been no sign of frontloading of India's outbound shipments despite US tariff threats.

Average monthly merchandise export growth in seasonally adjusted terms has deteriorated sharply since April 2025 to contract by almost 1% in local currency terms in June.

"One might blame Donald Trump's tariffs for this, but the decline is so far nothing out of the ordinary for India's historically choppy export growth. What is worth noting is that exports have not surged as one might expect if traders are frontloading orders and shipments ahead of tariff deadlines," it said.

BMI said India's current account deficit in 2025-26 is expected to remain modest at around 1.5% of the country's GDP.

Referring to the surge in India's exports of smartphones to the US, BMI said, "We expect India to play an increasingly important role in Apple's iPhone supply chain."

US imports of smartphones from India have risen dramatically since 2023, growing by an average of almost 160% year-on-year every month.

eBay sees India as a strategic growth market

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Global commerce leader eBay, which has enabled $75 billion of gross merchandise volume in 2024, on Thursday opened its global capability centre (GCC) in Bengaluru. The office, which is located at the Embassy Tech Village on the ORR, will serve as a technology innovation hub.

Speaking to *DH*, ahead of the launch, Mazen Rawashdeh, SVP & Chief Technology Officer, eBay, said India is a strategic growth market for the company, not only because of its vibrant ecommerce ecosystem but also because of its unmatched technology talent.

The city's strong talent pool in AI, engineering, and analytics, combined with its global reputation for technology leadership, makes it a natural choice for our expansion, he said.

The Bengaluru office, which is expected to employ upwards of 300 engineers, is designed to accelerate the company's innovation agenda globally, helping it scale AI-driven customer experiences and product innovation across markets. "By investing in India, we are strengthening our ability to serve 134 million active buyers in over 190 markets while positioning ourselves for long-term growth in emerging regions," he said.

"Such locations are helping us reinvent the future of ecommerce. eBay's approach is centered on AI-first commerce, drawing from decades of shopping and selling insights. We are building robust teams in AI/ML, applied research, engineering, analytics and business teams that will directly influence the customer experience worldwide," he said.

eBay's about 65,000 sq ft new office will host a variety of functions including technology and engineering, AI/ML, applied research, product development, product management and data analytics and more.

"We have 2.4 billion listings and already 10 million unique sellers who are already using generative AI features. The work done in Bengaluru will have global visibility and impact," the CTO said.

The company, which was founded in 1995 in San Jose, California, expects the Bengaluru office to encompass a diverse range of functions and will focus on advancing eBay's AI-first commerce strategy.

Mazen Rawashdeh, SVP & CTO, eBay.

CCPA slaps Rs 10 lakh fine on Rapido

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Consumer protection authority CCPA has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on ride-hailing platform Rapido for misleading advertisements and unfair trade practices.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) also directed Rapido to reimburse customers who used the company's "Auto in 5 minutes or Get Rs 50" offer but did not receive the promised compensation, a statement from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs said.

The CCPA took action after examining Rapido's advertisements found false and misleading to consumers. The authority has ordered Rapido to discontinue the misleading advertisements immediately.

Data from the National Consumer Helpline showed complaints against Rapido surged to 1,224 between June 2024 and July 2025, compared with 575 complaints in the previous 14-month period.

The CCPA's investigation revealed that disclaimers in Rapido's advertisements were displayed in extremely small, unreadable fonts. The promised Rs 50 benefit was not actual currency but "Rapido coins" worth "up to Rs 50," which could only be used for bike rides and expired within seven days.

The authority found that while advertisements prominently claimed the guarantee, terms and conditions stated the assurance was offered by individual drivers, not Rapido itself.

BFSI sector to add 2.5 lakh permanent jobs by 2030: Adecco India

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hiring in the BFSI sector is projected to grow by 8.7% in the current financial year and 10% by 2030 adding 2,50,000 permanent roles, with a marked shift in hiring mandates from Tier-I to Tier-II and Tier-III cities. In fact, more than 25% of hiring mandates in 2025 are already coming from beyond the top eight metros.

The first half of 2025 saw an over 27% increase in hiring activity compared to the corresponding period last year, signalling strong momentum across frontline, digital, and compliance functions. Candidates with local language proficiency and grassroots sales experience are now 2.5x more likely to be shortlisted and command 10%-15% higher compensation, according to Adecco India, an HR Solutions firm.

Karthikeyan Kesavan, Director and Head of Business – Permanent Recruitment, Adecco India, said, "The hiring landscape in the BFSI sector is being redefined by two converging shifts: the rapid rise of digital-first investors and the pivot towards Tier-II and Tier-III cities. While hiring demand remains strong across the BFSI sector, mutual fund companies and wealth management firms are leading the surge by 9%+, as market-linked investments gain traction beyond metros. Firms today need multilingual, digitally fluent talent with deep regional context to manage these relationships."

As households move from traditional assets to market-linked instruments like ULIPs, mutual funds, and pension products, talent demand is rising across the board. Banks have increased hiring for sales & relationship executives, digital product managers, and credit risk analysts. These are some of the most sought out roles in traditional BFSI hiring this year, he said.

'BFSI GCC sector to reach over $125 bn by 2032'

Bengaluru, DHNS:India's BFSI global capability centre (GCC) sector, which was valued at $40-41 billion in 2023, is projected to grow to $125-135 billion by 2032, which reflects a CAGR of 12-13%, according to staffing and workforce solutions provider Quess Corp's new report.

India is home to nearly 190 BFSI GCCs, which employ nearly 540,000 professionals who account for one-fourth of the nation's total GCC workforce. AI and data engineering have accounted for almost 29% of all new roles across BFSI GCCs. The acute shortage of AI and data talent is evident with a 42% skill gap, which is resulting in a strong pressure for higher salary packages, said the report.

Parliament passes bill banning online money games

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Parliament on Thursday passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 to ban all forms of online money games and promote eSports and online social gaming, with the Rajya Sabha approving it without debate amid din.

Piloting the bill in the Upper House, Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said the bill will ban online money games, which have become a big problem for society, especially middle-class youth.

The bill was approved by the Upper House after rejecting amendments moved by Opposition members. The legislation was approved by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Vaishnaw said it estimated that 45 crore people have fallen victim to it. More than Rs 20,000 crore of our middle-class families' hard-earned money has been destroyed.

Kyndryl to invest $2.25 bn in India over 3 years

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kyndryl, a provider of mission-critical enterprise technology services, on Thursday announced its plans to invest $2.25 billion in India over the next three years with a focus on modernising essential technology infrastructure for leading organisations.

Kyndryl is focusing on the development of future-ready talent and establishing an AI lab in India to expand the Company's impact in the world's most populous country, the company said in a statement.

"Kyndryl is a proud, trusted partner to our customers and an employer of choice to tens of thousands of Kyndryls across India," said Martin Schroeter, Chairman and CEO, Kyndryl.

"We're committed to further developing our people, expanding our technical capabilities and strengthening community partnerships to support growth, innovation and opportunity."

"India warmly welcomes global partners to explore the vast opportunities in our nation and collaborate with our talented youth to innovate and excel," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Together, we all can build solutions that not only benefit India but also contribute to global progress."

Kyndryl's planned commitment includes establishing an AI Innovation Lab in Bengaluru, deepening its engagement with the Government of India on AI, developing IT talent, and supporting digital training for roughly 200,000 citizens.

"India has established itself as a global technology powerhouse, driven by a thriving startup ecosystem, world-class digital infrastructure and skilled workforce," said Lingraju Sawkar, President, Kyndryl India.

Sebi chief hints at regulated platform for pre-IPOs

Tuhin Kanta Pandey

MUMBAI, PTI: Markets regulator Sebi chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Thursday suggested introducing a regulated platform for pre-IPO (initial public offering) share trading, potentially replacing existing grey market operations.

This new platform may permit investors to trade shares in a regulated environment in the three-day period between IPO allotment and listing. Also, this initiative may replace the existing unregulated grey market, which currently operates during this period.

At the same time, Pandey said that Sebi is looking to increase the tenure and maturity of equity derivatives products in a calibrated manner. This would curb trading in such products, where 91 per cent of individual traders incurred losses in FY25. He was speaking at the FICCI Capital Market Conference 2025.

SCAM SCRUTINY

Banks to use AI-based system to detect 'mule' accounts

AJITH ATHRADY & AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a major push to check online fraud and money laundering, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to make artificial intelligence-based verification of bank accounts mandatory in all banks. The RBI will soon issue guidelines to this effect, sources in the government said.

The RBI has carried out a pilot using an AI-based system in a bank to identify scam accounts known as "mule accounts" and block them. During the pilot, 13 lakh such accounts have been identified and blocked in one public sector bank alone. Mule accounts are those bank accounts which are used by fraudsters to transfer the amount of fraud from one account to another.

Sources in the government said that after the guidelines come into effect, all banks, including private as well as public sector banks have to identify and block mule accounts so that any form of illegal transfer is curbed. Sources said that the system will be able to identify any sort of two-way transaction so that fraudsters cannot target innocent people.

Sources said that once the guidelines come into effect, banking licenses and their renewal will come under the ambit. Banking operations, too, will be carried out as per these new rules. To ensure compliance, the government will also mount a massive campaign across the country, sources said.

During the pilot, the RBI studied how effective AI could be in spotting suspicious activity and preventing misuse of the financial system. Sources said that mule accounts are opened either with false identities or in the name of unsuspecting individuals and are later misused by fraudsters to route illegal funds.

Minister of state for home affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar informed the Rajya Sabha in a written response earlier said that the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has shared details of more than 800,000 suspects and more than 2 million mule accounts with banks, financial institutions and law enforcement agencies since its 'suspect registry' was launched on September 10, 2024.

The total amount involved in digital financial frauds reached 4,245 crore in the first 10 months (April–January) of 2024-25, involving 2.4 million incidents, according to data tabled by the Ministry of Finance in the Rajya Sabha (RS).

This marks a 67% increase from the 2,537 crore recorded in 2022-23, which involved 2 million cases. In 2023-24, financial frauds adding up to 4,403 crore were identified across 2.8 million cases.

Khalid Jamil

Fresh faces set the tone under coach Jamil

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Reigning Indian Super League champions Mohun Bagan earlier in the week had refused to release their players for the ongoing preparatory national camp ahead of the CAFA Nations Cup under newly-appointed India head coach Khalid Jamil in Bengaluru.

The Mariners stressed that it was "not mandatory" to release contracted players outside of the FIFA window and called out the All India Football Federation (AIFF) over their negligence. However, in their absence, Jamil was left with just 25 players. To complement the shake-up, Jamil was quick to react as the camp saw a few fresh faces in Alex Saji, Sunil Benchamin, Muhammed Uvais and Manvir Singh among their starry roster.

While there was a concern about the full set of players not joining his prep camp, Jamil did not fret about it.

"My doors are always open to every player," Jamil said in an All India Football Federation (AIFF) release.

"The CAFA Nations Cup will be an excellent opportunity for us to test our players against quality teams. Some players may not be in the squad right now because I want to try a few other less-tested ones," he added.

Benchamin, the 32-year-old Kerala defender who is on a amateur contract with the Army Red, has earned his first national call-up while the impressive full-back Uvais has managed to earn Jamil's trust after a good show during the Durand Cup. Goalkeeper Albino Gomes, after his long nine-year wait, also returned to the national camp for the first time.

The national camp is expected to go on for a few more days, before India take flight to play the CAFA Nations in Tajikistan.

IN BRIEF

Kajal in line for gold

▸ Young Indian wrestler Kajal produced two high-scoring wins to storm into the women's 72kg final while Reena (55kg) and Priya (76kg) settled for silver medals at the U20 World Wrestling Championships here Thursday, reports PTI from Samokov.

Rahane quits as Mumbai captain

▸ Veteran India batter Ajinkya Rahane on Thursday stepped down from his position as Mumbai captain ahead of the upcoming Ranji Trophy season, saying it is the right time to groom a new leader, reports PTI from Mumbai.

Karnataka thrash MP 6-1

▸ Derrin Teresa Sumesh and Nilavoli Sethurayar scored a brace as Karnataka thrashed Madhya Pradesh 6-1 in the Sub-junior girls' National Football Championships, reports DHNS.

Result: Karnataka: 6 (Nilavoli Sethurayar 4th, 43rd, Derrin Teresa Sumesh 13th, 90th+3, Subhathra A 16th, Saanchi Ravipati 37th) bt Madhya Pradesh: 1 (Suranjana Bhartiya 59th).
KWL: Misaka United FC: 4 (Shruthi Kumari 5th, Laura Estibeiro 34th, Esther TingJoukim 59th, Jyoti 73rd) bt Bengaluru FC: 0; Roots FC: 4 (Phukhrambam Mira Devi 10th, Oinam Babita Devi 40th, Yashika Tejwani 68th, Rosey Thanga 74th) bt Legends de Sporting FC: 0; United FC Kodagu: 3 (Chandam Anjali Devi 79th, 81st, Nimita Gurung 90th+4) bt Pink Panther FC: 2 (Simiran Gurung 19th, Smeeta Sundas 61st).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Maharaja Trophy: Hubli Tigers vs Gulbarga Mystics **(3:15 pm)**, Shivamogga Lions vs Mangaluru Dragons, **(7:15 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET ASIA CUP TEAM

Selections are always controversial

Shreyas, Washington and Jaiswal merited places but in whose place?

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Cricket team selections in India are never devoid of drama. And the team picked for the Asia Cup is no different. The exclusion of Shreyas Iyer, Washington Sundar and Yashasvi Jaiswal has triggered sharp reactions from a few former players and experts. Their criticism is understandable, for all three have put up performances worthy of recognition. Yet, while it is easy to call out the selectors for omissions, it would also be fair if those voicing concern suggested who, among the chosen 15, ought to have been left out.

One legitimate argument is the inclusion of Iyer instead of Rinku Singh who, after a golden start to his India career, has endured a modest run in his last two T20I series against England and South Africa. His returns don't inspire great confidence, and on that count, the selectors could have leaned towards Iyer. The Mumbai batter, with his proven record in the middle order, particularly in stabilising situations and tackling spin, does merit a place. But the bigger question is whether Iyer would have actually fitted into the playing XI. Shubman Gill's return to the side has already put Sanju Samson's spot in jeopardy, and adding Iyer into that mix would have further complicated the team management's task of arriving at the final XI.

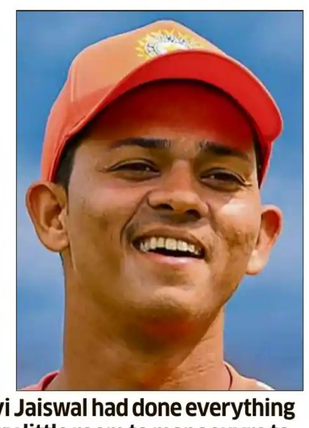
Would it have been fair then to carry a batter of Iyer's stature only for him to warm the benches? Because, in all probability, Rinku himself may not find a place in the first-choice XI. The only realistic way to accommodate Iyer in the starting line-up would have been to leave out Tilak Varma, who, since his promotion to No. 3, has made an instant impression. Tilak has shown the ability to adapt to match situations and the temperament to bat deep. While he is no Virat Kohli yet in his chosen position, he is worth every investment in him. Dropping him at this stage, when he has been doing little wrong, would have been unjust. That is the catch-22 situation the selectors found themselves in.

Iyer's form and recent record certainly cry for inclusion. He has worked his way back from injury, answered questions about his fitness and proved that he remains one of India's most reliable middle-order batters across formats. But selection in a cricket-mad country like India is often about timing. Right man but wrong time.

Washington Sundar, too, finds himself in an unfortunate position. Over the past year, his batting has come a long way, adding substance to his more-than-handy bowling. Yet, with three spinners -- Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy and all-rounder Axar Patel -- being certain starters, it was always going to be a toss-up between him and Shivam Dube. While the Tamil Nadu player brings more to the table, Dube seems to have edged him out as he is seen as a back-up for Hardik Pandya, who is more prone to breaking down a spin all-rounder like Axar.

Then there is Jaiswal, whose exclusion will sting equally, if not the most. The young opener is in the form of his life, piling up runs across formats consistently without compromising on strike rates. To deny him a place again, despite the weight of his runs, will no doubt hurt him, but handing him a berth would have meant nudging someone else aside, and that would have carried its own sense of injustice. With Gill assured to open and Abhishek Sharma unshakable at the top at the moment, there was little room to manoeuvre to accommodate Jaiswal.

But then, this is going to be the eternal dilemma of Indian cricket. The sheer depth of talent ensures that selections aren't without controversy. Every inclusion has its counterpoint and every exclusion has its justification. There are always going to be two or three worthy players missing out and that's not because they lack ability but because of combination compulsions. No matter which 15 are picked, someone deserving will always be left behind and criticism doesn't come as a surprise.



Shreyas Iyer (left), Washington Sundar (top right) and Yashasvi Jaiswal had done everything to earn their places in the Asia Cup squad but selectors had very little room to manoeuvre to accommodate the trio. PTI/ AFP

No bilateral sporting ties with Pakistan: Ministry

But India can play arch-rivals in multilateral events like Asia Cup

NEW DELHI, PTI

With the Sports Ministry's latest diktat, there's no scope of the Indian cricket team playing Pakistan in a bilateral series which would have been a broadcasters' dream. AFP FILE PHOTO

The Sports Ministry on Thursday declared that India and Pakistan will not have any bilateral sporting ties even on neutral venues as per an unprecedented new policy but the cricket team won't be stopped from playing the Asia Cup next month as it is a multi-lateral engagement.

The ministry unveiled the new policy with regard to India's international engagements with emphasis on Pakistan. A well-placed ministry source said that the policy, which bars Indian athletes from travelling to Pakistan and likewise disallows neighbouring sportspersons from coming here for bilaterals, is effective immediately.

Asked if Indian teams will be allowed to travel to Pakistan for any multi-lateral competitions, the source said, "In that scenario, we will examine the case before deciding anything."

"Even in multi-lateral events, we can't leave our athletes in the lurch. After all, Pakistan is a country that has no hesitation in declaring that it is a dumpster and can hit the shining Mercedes that is India," he added.

In the detailed policy that has been uploaded on the ministry's official website, the government named Pakistan, which currently stands accused of being behind the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, leading to a military showdown between the arch-foes in May after India launched 'Operation Sindoor'.

"India's approach to sports events involving Pakistan reflects its overall policy in dealing with that country," states the ministry policy.

"In so far as bilateral sports events in each other's country are concerned, Indian teams will not be participating in competitions in Pakistan. Nor will we permit Pakistani teams to play in India," it added. "India and Pakistan cannot play bilateral even if it is planned in America. No bilaterals," asserted a ministry source.

However, multilateral engagements will not be affected and the Asia Cup-bound team will travel to the UAE next month for the eight-team tournament starting September 9, despite social media outrage.

Asked if the policy could be revised if the ties between the two countries improve, a ministry source said, "At this point, it looks unlikely."

The policy makes it clear that India, which is aspiring to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2036 Olympic Games, will abide by the Olympic Charter and its philosophy of inclusivity to present itself as an amiable host of global events.

Would like BCCI to hold elections as per new act: SM

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Sports Ministry would like the much-awaited BCCI elections in September to be conducted as per the National Sports Governance Act but the cricketing body can hold them under the Supreme Court-approved Lodha Committee recommendations if the new legislation's rules are not notified by that time, a sports ministry source said on Thursday.

The ministry is aiming for the bill's full-fledged implementation in the next six months but intends to have the detailed guidelines and regulations for its execution notified much earlier.

"Ideally the elections should be held as per the act but in case the rules are not notified in time, they may go ahead as per Lodha Committee recommendations," the source said.

"Once the rules are notified, all NSFs, including the BCCI, will have to hold elections as per its norms," the source said.

While the Lodha Committee recommendations caps the age of an office-bearer at 70, the new act allows those between in the bracket of 70-75 to contest elections if the byelaws and statutes of their international governing body allows for it. The ICC has no age cap in its provisions for office-bearers.

Wild card Sevian holds Gukesh

ST LOUIS (US), PTI

World champion D Gukesh was held to a draw by the lone wild card Samuel Sevian of United States, while fellow Indian R Praggnanandhaa also split the point with Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the third round of the Sinquefield Cup here.

With his second draw in as many days, Praggnanadhaa remained in the leading group of three players that now includes Fabiano Caruana of the United States besides the overnight co-leader Armenian-turned-American Levon Aronian.

Caruana handed Alireza Firouzja of France his first loss in the tournament in the lone decisive game of the day. Aronian was held to a draw by Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, while another American Wesley So split the point with Duda Jan-Kryzsztof of Poland.

With six rounds still to come in the 3,75,000 USD prize money tournament, Praggnanadhaa, Aronian and Caruana share the lead on two points each and they are now followed by Wesley, Firouzja, Vachier-Lagrave, Sevian and Gukesh -- who all stand a half point behind.

Duda is next in line on one point, while Abdusattorov opened his account to be on a half point from his first three outings here.

For Gukesh, first draw in the tournament was rather easy with black pieces. Samuel Sevian tried his hands at the Rosslimo variation against the Sicilian defence but Gukesh was always in control. The middle game arrived and passed smoothly as both players exchanged pieces at regular intervals leading to a drawn endgame.

Praggnanandhaa played his first black after two white games and chose the Nimzo-Indian defence wherein Abdusattorov, struggling to find his form, could not get much. The players reached an opposite coloured Bishops endgame where the draw was a just result.

It could have been an uneventful day but for Caruana who played a fine positional game to outwit Firouzja. The Fianchetto variation against the Nimzo gave Caruana a spatial advantage as his pieces stood better in the middle game and, after a fine grind, the American pushed his central passed pawn to the seventh rank for the desired effect.

US' Samuel Sevian (left) and D Gukesh of India shake hands after agreeing for a truce in their game at the Sinquefield Cup on Wednesday. X

All-round Shreyas, Kranthi help Dragons topple Warriors

MYSURU, DHNS: Mangaluru Dragons' skipper Shreyas Gopal **(in pic)** delivered a comprehensive performance at the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20, guiding his side to a 52-run victory over Mysore Warriors at the Srikantadatta Narasimha Raja Wadeyar Ground.

Macneil Noronha and Shivraj S also contributed with the bat while Kranthi Kumar was the leading wicket-taker yet again with four wickets to ensure the Warriors were bowled out for just 121 in pursuit of 174.

In the second innings, Shreyas struck in the first over to dismiss Karthik SU (8 off 4) and jolt the Warriors early, but Karthik CA (34 runs off 21 balls) responded fiercely, smashing two sixes and a four off Gopal in the third over. The Dragons fought back, as Ronit More removed Venkatesh M and Kranthi Kumar claimed Harshil Dharmani, to end the powerplay at 51/3.

Shreyas Gopal's impact only grew from there as he snapped up Manish Pandey, who looked menacing after three fours, and Lankesh, to return figures of three for 36.

In the day's second fixture, Rohan Patil smashed an unbeaten 45-ball 74 to power Bengaluru Blasters to a seven-wicket win over Shivamogga Lions.

Brief scores: Mangaluru Dragons 173/7 in 20 overs (Lochan Gowda 34, Macneil Hadley Noronha 31, Shreyas Gopal 29, Shivraj S 27 n.o.; Prasidh Krishna 2-25, Kushaal Wadhwani 2-37, Yashovardhan Parantap 3-25) bt Mysore Warriors 121 all out in 17.1 overs (Karthik CA 34, Yashovardhan Parantap 28; Shreyas Gopal 3-36, Kranthi Kumar 4-30)
Shivamogga Lions: 111/9 in 20 overs (Naveen MG 3-30, Madhav Prakash Bajaj 4-12) lt to Bengaluru Blasters: 117/3 in 14.4 overs (Rohan Patil 74 n.o.).

Seville breathes fire in Lausanne rain

LAUSANNE, AFP

Jamaica's Oblique Seville trumped Olympic champion Noah Lyles in the 100m at Wednesday's Diamond League meet in Lausanne, just three weeks away from the world championships in Tokyo.

Once again, Lyles stuttered out of the blocks, a slow start handing Seville the advantage from the start, something the Jamaican then never looked in danger of ceding.

Seville clocked an impressive 9.87 seconds in torrential rain at the Stade Olympique de la Pontaise, Lyles battling back in a strong finish to snatch second in 10.02.

"Running 9.87 in those conditions shows I can go much faster, anywhere in the world, that's a good time," said Seville, who won a world bronze as part of the Jamaican 4x100m relay squad in Budapest in 2023.

It was a repeat of last month's London Diamond League when the 24-year-old Seville also got the better of the American.

"I've beaten the Olympic champion twice, in London and here, and that gives me a lot of confidence heading into the championships. It's been a while since a Jamaican man has won the 100m at a global championship, and of course, I believe I can be the one to do it."

Lyles was left to rue a "horrible reaction to the gun. That was the only thing wrong."

"Technically I felt good, my warm-up was good, but once you miss the start at this level the race is basically over," he said. "Physically I feel great, and I am confident every race will get better and better. The goal is to sharpen the details, especially my drive phase and my start, heading to Tokyo and the world championships."

Jamaica's Oblique Seville (right) storms to victory in 100m in torrential rain at the Lausanne Diamond League meeting on Wednesday. AFP

Kenya's Olympic 800m champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi also suffered a setback as American Josh Hoey claimed victory in the 800m. Hoey, the reigning world indoor champion, held his own down the home straight for victory in 1:42.82.

Wanyonyi looked out of it with 200m to run, but battled back for second in 1:43.29 ahead of Spain's Mohamed Attaoui and Briton Max Burgin, with Canadian world champion Marco Arop in fifth.

But there was no such drama for Britain's Olympic women's 800m gold medallist Keely Hodgkinson, who continued her comeback with a meet record over the two-lap discipline in 1:55.69 ahead of Switzerland's Audrey Werro.

Cordell Tinch continued his fine season form by clocking an impressive 12.98sec in the men's 110m hurdles.

Rookie pro Heena surges ahead at Prestige

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rookie Heena Kang dropped a crucial double bogey right at the end of the round but still managed to keep her nose ahead by one stroke in the 11th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Prestige Golfshire here on Thursday.

Heena shot a second straight round of even-par 72 and was one shot clear of Jasmine Shekar (75-70).

Amateur Lavanya Gupta added a second-round score of 72 after a 74 in the first round and was third, while three players, Agrima Manral (78-70), Ananya Datar (75-73) and amateur Mannat Brar (72-76) are all at 4-over 148.

Heena, who had a share of the first-round lead with 72, birdied the third but gave up that shot on the par-4 seventh and turned in even par. Back-to-back birdies on the 11th and the 12th took her to 2-under, followed by a bogey-birdie on the 15th and the 16th to stay at 2-under. A closing double set her back to even par, but she was still in the lead.

Jasmine had four birdies against two bogeys to shoot the day's equal best of 2-under 70.

Leading scores (after 36 holes, A denotes amateur): 144: Heena Kang (72, 72); **145:** Jasmine Shekar (75, 70); **146:** Lavanya Gupta (A, 74, 72); **148:** Agrima Manral (78, 70), Ananya Datar (75, 73), Mannat Brar (A, 72, 76).

Flawless Sandhu fires scorching 61 to extend lead

BENGALURU, DHNS: Yuvraj Sandhu of Chandigarh shot an extraordinary 10-under 61, his best score in two years, to stretch his lead to three strokes after round three of the Rs 1 crore PGTI Players Championship at the Clover Greens Golf Course & Resort near Hosur.

The 28-year-old Yuvraj (63-67-61), the current PGTI Order of Merit leader, who is staring at his fourth title of the season and second in two weeks, totalled 22-under 191 for three days.

Olympian Udayan Mane (67-65-62) of Pune, who was overnight tied second, struck a nine-under 62 on Thursday to move into sole second position at 19-under 194.

Delhi's Kshitij Naveed Kaul (68-67-64) came up with a 64 in the penultimate round to move up one spot into third position at 14-under 199.

Sandhu, who will be looking to become wire-to-wire champion for the second week in succession, extended his overnight two-shot lead by another shot with the help of a tournament low of 61 that was punctuated by five birdies each on the front-nine and back-nine.

Mane's third round of 62 was highlighted by a 16-feet eagle conversion on the 12th along with seven other birdies.

Leading scores (after 54 holes, A denotes amateur): 191: Yuvraj Sandhu (63, 67, 61); **194:** Udayan Mane (67, 65, 62); **199:** Kshitij Naveed Kaul (68, 67, 64); **200:** Kartik Sharma (67, 68, 65), Veer Ganapathy (A, 64, 68, 68).

Ajay Singh re-elected BFI President

GURUGRAM, PTI: Incumbent Ajay Singh was on Thursday re-elected as the President of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) for a third consecutive term after his comprehensive victory over Jaslal Pradhan in the long-overdue polls.

The elections, postponed by more than six months amid the legal wrangling, were conducted in the presence of Returning Officer Rajesh Tandon and BFI interim committee head Fairuz Mohammed of Singapore, who was sent by World Boxing as its observer.

India 'A' Women slip to 93/5

BRISBANE, PTI: Excluded from India's World Cup squad, Shafali Verma produced a 38-ball 35 before India Women's A slipped to 93 for five against Australia on the rain-truncated first day of their four-day game here on Thursday.

Shafali provided a brisk start to the side hitting eight fours. Her knock was critical since India had lost a couple of early wickets after being asked to bat first.

Nandini Kashyap (0) and Dhara Gujjar (0) departed without bothering the scorer to leave India reeling at 6/2 in the first two overs with Georgia Prestwidge (3/25) accounting for both batters.

Brief scores: India Women's A: 93/5 in 23.2 overs (Shafali Verma 35, Raghvi Bist 26 n.o.; Georgia Prestwidge 3-25).

England recall Knight for World Cup

LONDON, PTI: Former captain Heather Knight was named in a 15-member England squad for the upcoming ICC Women's World Cup on Thursday, and the duo of Sarah Glenn and Danni Wyatt-Hodge also returned to the side after missing the recent series against India.

Knight returns to the squad after having been on the sidelines for the last few months due to a tendon injury in her right hamstring.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said Knight has been named in the squad as she continues her comeback from injury and is hopeful of being fit in time for the tournament, which will be held from September 30 to November 2.

Squad: Nat Sciver-Brunt (capt), Em Arlott, Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Alice Capsey, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, Sarah Glenn, Amy Jones, Heather Knight, Emma Lamb, Linsey Smith, Danni Wyatt-Hodge.

ATHLETICS INTER-STATE MEET

Vishal smashes 400m NR

TN quartermiler runs 45.12s to break six-year-old record on the second day

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tamil Nadu's Vishal TK broke the national record with a stunning timing of 45.12 seconds at the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships in Chennai on Thursday.

Vishal, who set the pace in the semifinals the other day with a timing of 45.78, obliterated the six-year-old record by Muhammed Anas at 45.21 seconds (at the Kladno Athletics meet in the Czech Republic in 2021).

Vishal's attempt, however, fell short of the World Athletics Championships' direct qualification mark of 44.85s. Another alternate route through world rankings remains in play as the athlete was ranked 96th before heading into the race and needs to be inside the top 48 to earn an invitation from WA through a quota spot. This is the last event for Indian athletes to qualify for Tokyo.

In the women's 400m final, Karnataka's experienced MR Poovamma finished a disappointing sixth with a timing of 54.72s, while Gujarat's Devyaniba Zala claimed the gold at 53.37. The qualification mark for the event was set at 50.75. Karnataka's in-form Vijayakumari, who won gold at the Bronze Level Continental Tour earlier this month, went out in the semifinal heat after hurting her heel during practice.

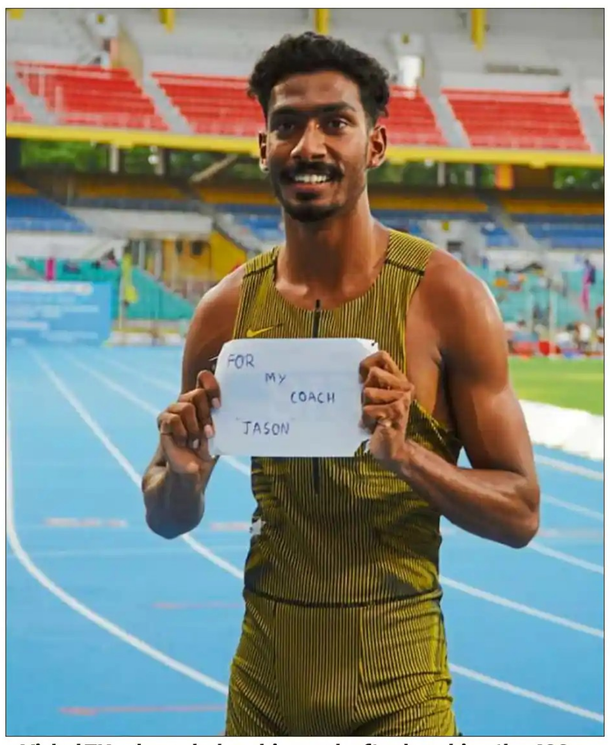
It was a no-medal day for Karnataka after winning three (two silver and a bronze) on Day 1.

Mohammed Saqlain was fifth in the men's discus throw final with an attempt of 52.96m. Vaibhav Patil finished 18th in the men's 1500m at 3:54.17.

Nisha Banu Abdulla finished sixth in the women's pole vault with a best attempt of 3.70m. Priyanka C also took sixth place in the women's 1500m final with a timing of 4:32.16.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka mixed 4x400m relay team, led by Poovamma, topped their heat in the qualification round with a timing of 3:23.76. The women's 4x100m relay team, led by individual bronze medallist SS Sneha, also impressed as they finished third in the qualification round with a timing of 45.63s. All the relay race finals are scheduled on Friday.

Results: Men: 400m: Vishal TK (TN) 45.12s (Old NR: 45.21, Muhammed Anas, 2019), 1; Rajesh Ramesh (Ker) 46.04, 2; Vikrant Panchal (Har) 46.17, 3.
1500m: Yoonus Shah (UP) 3:41.22, 1; Ajay Saroj (UP) 3.41.55, 2; Arjun Waskale (MP) 3:42.86, 3.
Discus Throw: Kirpal Singh (Chn) 55.00m, 1; Nirbhay Singh (Har) 53.62, 2; Ujjawal Choudhary (Har) 53.23, 3.
Decathlon: Stalin Jones (TN) 7052 points, 1; Kushal Mohite (Mah) 6976, 2; Kamal Dhankh (Har) 6820; 3.
Women: 400m: Devyaniba Zala (Guj) 53.37s, 1; Anankha BA (Ker) 53.84, 2; Prachi (UP) 53.96, 3.
1500m: Pooja (Har) 4:10.68, 1; Lili Das (Utk) 4:12.47, 2; Amandeep Kaur (Pun) 4:21.37, 3.
Shot put: Kanchar Chaudhary (Raj) 15.75m, 1; Vidhi (UP) 15.30, 2; Shiksha (Har) 15.18, 3.
Pole vault: Baranica Elangovan (TN) 4.10m, 1; Mariya Jaison (Ker) 4.05, 2; Sathya T (TN) 4.00, 3.



Vishal TK acknowledges his coach after breaking the 400m national record at the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships in Chennai on Thursday.

Shaw shines as India dominate

Mansi shoots Jr skeet gold; Babuta falls short

SHYMKENT (KAZAKHSTAN), PTI

Teen Indian shooters grabbed four of the five gold medals on offer to dominate the fourth day of the 16th Asian Shooting Championship, taking the country's medal tally to 26 medals, here on Thursday.

India now have won 14 gold, six silver and as many bronze medals, firmly cementing their position at the top of the standings.

Abhinav Shaw began the gold rush for India, first teaming up with Naraen Pranav (third with 631.1) and Himanshu (fourth with 630.9), to shoot 628.1 in qualification, not only clinching a spot in the final for himself but also ensuring that the trio's tally of 1890.1 was an Asian as well as a junior world record, apart from the gold for India.

He then shot a thrilling final, beginning fifth on the grid after the first five-shot series to take the lead after the second.

Abhinav Shaw

The end stage was a battle of attrition with Lee Hyunseo, but the Indian showed admirable nerves after two high 9s on his 17th and 18th shots to pip the Korean by 0.1 in the end.

The 21st shot with 10.9 was the icing on the cake.

At the shotgun ranges, Mansi Raghuwanshi triumphed in the junior women's skeet final with a tally of 53 out of a possible 60-targets.

Compatriot Yashasvi Rathore won silver with 52 while Kazakh Lidiya Basharova took bronze.

Earlier, while all three shooters in the men's 10m air rifle senior event shot brilliant qualification rounds to give India yet another team gold, Rudrankksh Patil and Arjun Babuta could not convert the chance into medals.

Women's Asia Cup: Tete named captain

NEW DELHI, PTI: Seasoned midfielder Salima Tete was on Thursday retained as captain of a 20-member Indian women's hockey team for the Asia Cup to be held in Hangzhou, China, from September 5 to 14.

The tournament assumes added significance as the winner will secure a direct berth in the 2026 FIH Women's Hockey World Cup.

India have been drawn in Pool B, where they will face Japan, Thailand, and Singapore. The team will open its campaign against Thailand on September 5, followed by a clash with Japan on September 6.

India will play their final pool-stage match against Singapore on September 8.

"We are excited about the squad we have selected for the women's Asia Cup in Hangzhou," chief coach Harendra Singh said in a press release issued by Hockey India.

Salima (23) has been an integral part of the team for a while after being appointed captain last year.

"The group has been training with great intensity, and we have tried to strike the right balance between experienced campaigners and young talent," Singh said.

Squad: Bansari Solanki, Bichu Devi Kharibam, Manisha Chauhan, Udita, Jyoti, Suman Devi Thoudam, Nikki Pradhan, Ishika Chaudhary, Neha, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Salima Tete, Sharmila Devi, Lalremsiami, Sunelita Toppo, Navneet Kaur, Rutaja Dadaso Pisal, Beauty Dungdung, Mumtaz Khan, Deepika, Sangita Kumari.

Salima Tete

Sharvil Karambelkar (left) and Nandhana Bandi pose with their spoils.

Sharvil, Nandhana crowned

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sharvil Karambelkar and Nandhana Bandi clinched the boys' and girls' titles respectively in the 6th State-ranking table tennis tournament at T B Dam Sports Centre in Hospete on Thursday.

While Sharvil trounced Arnav Mithun 9-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-9 in the boys' final, Nandhana bounced back from an opening game loss to defeat Samanvi Sandeep Katambale 9-11, 11-7, 12-10, 9-11, 11-9 in the girls' title clash.

Results (all finals): Boys: Sharvil Karambelkar bt Arnav Mithun 9-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-9.
Girls: Nandhana Bandi bt Samanvi Sandeep Katambale 9-11, 11-7, 12-10, 9-11, 11-9.

Alcaraz, Novak in same half

NEW YORK, AFP

Carlos Alcaraz was put on a US Open collision course with Novak Djokovic on Thursday as the draw for the men's and women's singles tournaments were revealed.

Spanish star Alcaraz faces a potentially awkward route to the final where a possible showdown with world No. 1 Jannik Sinner could be waiting at Flushing Meadows.

Alcaraz, who could supplant Sinner as world No. 1 depending on results in New York over the next fortnight, will have to hit the ground running starting from Sunday.

Errani, Vavassori win

Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori defended their US Open mixed doubles title, keeping a traditional team on top of a revamped event filled with singles stars.

SKODA
25 YEARS
Celebrating 25 Years of Driving Excellence.
Limited Edition. Unlimited Fans.
With Loyalty, Exchange and Corporate Benefits up to ₹1 Lakh.#
Kushaq
Slavia
Kylaq
Complimentary Accessories Package up to ₹46 000* | Total Benefits up to ₹2.3 lakh^
Kushaq and Slavia Monte Carlo Limited Edition: 360° Area-view Camera | Monte Carlo Body Kit | Puddle Lamp | Underbody Lights | 25 Year Badge
Kylaq Limited Edition: 360° Area-view Camera | Puddle Lamp | 25 Year Badge
5-star BNCAP rating for Kylaq***
5-star GNCAP rating for Kushaq & Slavia
1 Year Complimentary SuperCare Package
Special Benefits for Government Employees^^
Additional Scrappage Benefit**
Available Across CSD & GeM##
300+ Touchpoints
1800 2700 260
www.skoda-auto.co.in
Authorised Dealers: **Bengaluru:** (Mahadevpura): Raja Ganesh Motors: 72300 87090/ 96200 18618; (Brookefield): Raja Ganesh Motors: 72300 87090; (Bommasandra): Raja Ganesh Motors: 1800 2022 866; (Jakkur): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Sadashivanagar): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Mysore Road): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Rajajinagar): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Kalyan Nagar): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Hennur Road): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Sreerampura Okhlipuram): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (HSR Layout): TAFE Access: 78742 23333; (St. Marks Road): TAFE Access: 78742 23333; (Sarjapur): TAFE Access: 78742 23333; (Off Hosur Road): TAFE Access: 95919 98570; (J P Nagar): Karr Motor Ventures: 99007 74597; **Belgaum:** Raja Motors Corp: 80508 63045 / 80508 63048; **Hubballi:** Raja Motors Corp: 0836-2278555 / 80508 54183 / 80506 32563; **Davangere:** Raja Motors Corp: 80508 93564 / 80501 57907 / 83622 78555; **Mangalore:** TAFE Access: 78743 34444 / 93848 22472; **Mysore:** (Koorgalli Industrial Estate): Palace Škoda: 97422 08080; (New Kantharaj URS Road): Palace Škoda: 97422 08080; **Tumkur:** PPS Motors: 88007 76947; **Udupi:** TAFE Access: 78743 34444; **Shivammogga:** TAFE Access: 78743 34444 / 78742 23333; **Bellary:** PPS Motors: 88007 76947; **Gulbarga:** PPS Motors: 92811 13811; **Hassan:** Palace Škoda: 97422 08080
T&C Apply. #Benefits are applicable on select models and differ from model to model and variant to variant, for limited period and in limited quantity. *Applicable on select models and differ from model to model and variant to variant. Features and accessories shown here may not be part of standard equipment and is a part of dealer fitment, Actual product specifications may vary. ^Total benefits are applicable on select models and differ from variant to variant. ^^Special benefits are applicable on select models and differ from variant to variant **Scrappage benefit can be availed on select variants only against Certificate of Deposit. Check with your nearest dealership for more information. ##Selected variants available, stock subject to availability on CSD and GeM. ***Sub-4 metre ICE vehicles, as per the BNCAP Rating. Delivery of the car is subject to stock availability. Images are shot in a controlled environment and are for representational purposes only. Actual colour, features and specifications may vary. Please refer to www.skoda-auto.co.in for more information. All disputes are subject to Mumbai court's jurisdiction only.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com